

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians/Election Board Open Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2024

I. Call to order

Kathy Gibson made a motion to called to order the Closed Meeting of the Election Board at 7:17PM

Roll Call:

Kathy Gibson – Here	Laura Echelbarger - Here	Janine Sam – Here
Shawna Gonzalez - Here	Lee Iverson - Here	

II. Prayer by Janine Sam

III. Membership in attendance: Mike Ceplina, Carol Reffitt, Al Metzger, Bill Ossiginac, Chelsea Densmore, Julie Wolfe, Michael Burmeister, Tammy Burmeister, Karol Ann Chabot, Krystal Davis, LeeAnn Ossiginac, Machele Gibbs, Robert McCaslin, Roy Vanus, Sara Agosa, Staci Cheney, Linda Wisner, Karen Love, Israel Stone, Tina McClellan Payment, Jolene O’Signac. Larry Olson.

IV. Discussion Period

- a) Kathy Gibson requested anyone who is referring back to the regulations if the member could reference the specific spot they are referencing so everyone could look at the same area.

Open Discussion/Comments:

Mike Ceplina-When I was on the Election Board we had it changed to when you turned 18 you could vote, and we figured that it was a good way to go because it gave everyone a chance to vote. Now I see that you are changing it back and I seen that you are changing it back and I see thatF you had taken a survey and there were 303 to keep it the way it was and 86 to change it and I was wondering what your reason is to change it.

Kathy Gibson-These are just proposed regulations. We did do a survey to gather information, so it’s an information gathering and proposed regulations to hear memberships concerns of what they are thinking about and getting input. Again, being a survey as you know being on the Election Board, you are gathering information, so we are in the gathering information stage and we are proposing regulations, we have not voted on anything. We want the membership input. Laura does have, and she did share at the membership meeting, that we are trying to increase voter participation, member participation. This is just an option that we are looking at this time.

Mike Ceplina-How do you propose to get to everyone that wants to vote, like outside the area? Are you going to be sending out something to the people?

Kathy Gibson-Similar to the other elections, we will send out ballots. That’s what we do, we send out ballots just like the last elections in the past. We send out ballots to all tribal members that are registered.

Mike Ceplina-I was just wondering because you said that you need to register now, does that mean that you fill out the paperwork and get a little card and it expires, just like last time?

Kathy Gibson-Just to clarify, these are proposed regulations. That doesn’t mean that we voted on them,

they are proposed.

Mike Ceplina-I am just thinking if they are proposed then how are you going to do it?

Laura Echelbarger-We have been talking about this for quite some time, the possibility of it. One of the possibilities for registration could be that we send out registration sheets to all of the membership, that would be a great way to reach everyone. Again, that is one of those minor details that we would have to work out if this is something that goes through.

Lee Iverson-Mike, do you have any suggestions, that is truly what we are doing here tonight, to garner suggestions and feedback.

Mike Ceplina-I was just wondering if you had thought about this and that and it sounds like you have.

Julie Wolfe-I would like you to describe the process on these proposed regulations how they move forward? You continue to say they are proposed but they are posted for public comment, so what is the next step? How does it happen, what is your process? To adopt these or not? It doesn't look like they are just proposed, it looks like they are ready to be implemented.

Kathy Gibson-So what we did, Julie, is we proposed them, and we will entertain membership input, we would like that in writing to us, kind of like the Tribal Council, when you guys put out something for 30-day public comment. You get the information back and I would hope you would go through each of those comments and look at that before you adopt anything, so that is what we are looking at. The proposed regulations, we are looking for membership input and comments, when we get that back we will go through each individual comment and depending on what that says, we will either make a vote, revisit it and go from here.

Julie Wolfe-Laura, when did you give notice to tribal membership that you were proposing and posting regulations and seeking public input? It wasn't included in your survey.

Kathy Gibson-Surveys are totally different, as you are aware.

Julie Wolfe-But you could have included a notice in there, you spent \$5000 on postage to get the survey out to everyone.

Kathy Gibson-What are your comments and what are your changes?

Julie Wolfe- When did you give notice to tribal membership that you were proposing changes and that it was posted for public comment.

Laura Echelbarger-It was on January 2nd.

Julie Wolfe-To the entire membership or just the people who attended your thing. I've not seen a notice or received a notice.

Laura Echelbarger-That's interesting, we did go to Council to be put out on the 30-day comment underneath the Legislative, then we were told that Council doesn't have anything to do with that, so we went to the Help Desk, they posted it and then we posted it on our Facebook Election Board page and put it on the LRBOI page.

Julie Wolfe -But you didn't give a formal notice to the entire membership.

Lee Iverson-Per our regulation, we did give formal notice, we followed the regulations and in doing the appropriate postings and providing it to Tribal Council to post as well.

Julie Wolfe-So you're seeking public input and comment but you didn't really notify all of the tribal membership that you're requesting all of these comments but they aren't fully aware about it. The only reason they know is that other members are posting about it on Facebook and trying to get people involved. There's not even been a public notice, there has been nothing publicly posted in government buildings, there's not been anything posted on the Tribal government website, on the tribal government Facebook, any of the other forms of communication that you guys could utilize. It would have been very simple, and it could have been included in your survey that, hey we are taking this survey but at the

same time we are going to write up two pages in the regulations and change them all and ask for your input.

Kathy Gibson-Julie, would you take the initiative and would you post that out there and put that information out there for us.

Julie Wolfe-I'm not an Election Board member but if you draft a public notice and send it to me, yes, I will put the notice out there. How many days are left for people to make public comments or are you going to make the 30-days from when the notice is issued?

Laura Echelbarger-I wish we would have received that feedback when I sent it to the Speaker and to the Recorder on the day that we were posting on the 30-day Comment.

Julie Wolfe-The recorder didn't even include the rest of Tribal Council on your communication.

Kathy Gibson-Ok, we appreciate your input and comment but Laura, I think it's time to move on and not negotiate. We followed our regs as Lee had stated in posting the 30-day comment. Thank you.

Julie Wolfe-So are you going to resend your formal notice to me and is it going to start from when you originally posted from the break or are we going to have the deadline of February 7th or are you starting it from when the notice is issued to include all tribal members.

Kathy Gibson-Our 30-day comment, according to our regs, was posted on January 2nd, the Election Board will review your concerns and we will discuss further about what we need to do for the next step above and beyond.

Julie Wolfe-Well, can you say for the 24 people that is participating what is the final day for written comment because I heard you say that is the only thing you are accepting.

Kathy Gibson-I will just say this, when we posted our 30-day comment for our prior regulations, it was posted for 6 or 7 weeks to let membership comment. So, I would hope if membership has comments and for the 24 people that are currently on, procrastination is not a good thing, so the sooner you post comments and talk to fellow membership, the better. Thank you.

Julie Wolfe-So my last and final comment while I have the queue, I think what you guys are proposing is an inaccessible process that will keep many from casting their ballot of our membership. Especially from Elders who get confused about what paperwork they need to have to register, they might not have the right paperwork and it makes it difficult for young voters, specifically new voters or first-time voters in our tribal elections with little experience with engaging in voting realm of it. Many of our tribal members have fewer resources and you guys put heavy stipulations on there with them, what your regulations proposed is not sending out a notice to them that they need to register. They have to request that they want to register and then you have several steps that they need to complete to be registered. I think you are just creating a hardship and a burden on our membership for undo reason, and we have had automatic registration for a long time and it seems to work. When you first opened this meeting you said it was to gather and engage more voters but you're putting a hardship and burden on them to register to vote, or even to allow them the actual process or the right to vote. Just want to make those comments.

Krystal Davis-I feel that the proposed change to the Election Board regulation changing the automatic registration to voters requiring voter registration is unneeded and is going directly against your survey for the membership. This decision neither fails to consider or disregard to intentionally suppress the will of the citizens and cause devastating impacts on our Elections. The Election Board needs to recognize the vast differences in the experience and opportunity and realities facing our voters and leave automatic registration in place. There is historically a low voter participation in our tribe already, while the number of issues contribute to the low voter turnout with the Election Board creating more obstacles in

the process only creates less participation of our voters and continue to add unnecessary challenges when exercising our rights to vote. I kindly request and urge the Election Board to reconsider the proposed changes and leave automatic registration in place. I did fill out the form of the survey, but I didn't realize that there was a different process to actually get that information to you guys, just because I hadn't known. Just personally, I have some family members sitting with me, I wasn't sure if I should have them raise their hand or introduce them, but I know that just personally as we talk amongst each other, sometimes we voted just because we knew who was running. I know, also, that I felt that I had heard some people had voted because they were actually sent a postcard or something and that meant a lot to them, but I feel like if they were to go ahead and make that registration, I feel like it might make a longer process and the voters won't respond. So that's my last comment.

Sara Agosa-My first comment is that I keep hearing the Election Board members wanting feedback, but we gave you feedback and, in the survey, the majority of respondents wanted to keep automatic registered voting. Additionally, I emailed the Election Board and asked what meeting and administrative procedures you follow, which is what Julie was touching upon and I didn't get a response. I was referred to the ordinance and regulations, but I can't find any specific guidelines on your meeting procedures, which would include things like conflict of interest, abstentions, ties, as well as guidelines more specifically on your record keeping including votes. My question is about a recent court ruling, the court ruling case number is 23105-GC. It involves keeping formal records and keeping the members informed of votes. Has the Election Board reviewed this court opinion, and does it apply to the Election Board?

Laura Echelbarger-It's something that we can bring up to our attorney.

Sara Agosa-So what is your response on your meeting procedures?

Laura Echelbarger-I really don't have a response, Sara.

Sara Agosa-Ok, so I interpret that you don't have official meeting procedures. My other comment is about Facebook and the website because I pulled up the regulations on your website and it does not contain a closing date on your public comment and that's really important information. I would really like to express to the board that Facebook is not the official forum for our tribal government, the website is and there should be some continuity between the two, which I brought up in the last public meeting. I just wanted to share my concern that Facebook is not our official forum. I would like to see the board develop policies around the use of technology and also administrative procedures.

Al Metzger-First I'd like some clarification, you said you talked to the Speaker and Recorder on January 2nd, could you please tell me which speaker because we had an interim speaker at the time.

Laura Echelbarger-I sent it to Tammy and Pam, and I was referred to IT and they posted it.

Al Metzger-At that time, it would have been Pam and Misty because Tammy was acting Ogema.

Laura Echelbarger-Ok.

Al Metzger-The other one is Section 3 A, page 57, this has to do with meetings. It is very vague, you only got three little bleeps in there, but the concern I have is concerning the word public. It does not say Tribal Members, inclusive, it says its open to the public and that goes back to what Ms. Wolfe was saying. The last thing I would like to say, I'm not really in agreement with having to register to vote, this issue has been talked about a few times and I prefer it to stand as is.

Joleen Ossigniac-I attempted to go in from the Little River website to read the proposed changes and I wasn't able to pull it up. There was some other information that kind of laid on top and wouldn't allow me to access it. So, I'm sure, if I'm having that problem there are other people with the same issue. So that is just a point of information. My comment is I attended the last Election Board meeting, and we

discussed changing the way we register to vote, I was frankly shocked to hear that you're proposing to go back to the old way that we did away with or requiring voter registration. The questionnaire that you sent out, the little bit of answer you got on it clearly showed that the membership does not support that, and the comments made in the meeting reflected the same thing. There was no membership interest in making those changes. So, I was shocked to see it as a proposed change and I'm not just reading it as a proposed change, I'm reading it as the Election Boards intention is to do. So, I've heard you guys' back pedal on that and say it's just proposed. What you've written is what you are trying to adopt, so that needs to be removed.

Machele Gibbs-So, my comment is as far as registered voters, in our constitution it does state you have to be at least 18 years old and registered to vote on the date of any given tribal election. So, our constitution spells it out plain and simple and that is what we need to follow. My other comment is we have always registered, way back when. Has your participation in voting since this was changed to not being registered, has that level of participation went up or down? I know you probably can't answer me right now. Just thinking out loud.

Laura Echelbarger-Actually, I do have that same spreadsheet that we showed at the membership meeting, I can pull it up if anyone wants to see it.

Kathy Gibson-Can you pull it up so anyone can see it if they want to.

Laura Echelbarger-This is just what we showed at the fall membership meeting. It was numbers that I put together based off of the last several years of voting, we wanted to see what the difference was and who was voting, who is registering and what those numbers look like. You can kind of see that about a third of the membership is voting/registering. Clearly the secretarial election is a little bit different because you had to register with the BIA to do that so that's why you can see that those numbers look a little different.

Machele Gibbs-So really it hasn't changed a whole lot in all of this time. The same people that are registering back then are voting now, basically the same people. You have to account for people who do walk on, for whatever reason they don't vote. So, I guess I'm just going to leave you guys with this, it states in our constitution I don't understand why we are going to deviate from our constitution.

Karol Ann Chabot-My ID card expired, and I didn't know that it expired. This affects my medical and dental because I have to have an up-to-date ID card and why does it expire. What is the reasoning behind that?

Kathy Gibson-That is a question you would have to reach out to the enrollment department and ask them.

Karol Ann Chabot-That's not your department? I'll do that.

Janine Sam-Actually, I think that is a Tribal Council question as well because the Tribal Council adopts the enrollment ordinance. Just to make sure that its not necessarily just the enrollment commission, because the commission can't adopt their own rules independently.

Karol Ann Chabot-Thank you Janine, I'll look into that.

Julie Wolfe-They expire because they are federal id's...(could not hear the rest of her comment).

Chelsea Densmore-Julie is breaking up a bit but what she's saying is that if its going to be recognized as a federal id it has to have an expiration date and that's why it has to be expired. I know they talked a lot about this in one of the work sessions they had but in order to be considered a federal id and be taken all over and to get you into Canada and be recognized as a real id it has to have an expiration date.

Karol Ann Chabot-Thank you for that explanation.

Bill Ossiginac-Whose idea was it to change the way we vote in this tribe because it sounds like you guys are trying to fix something that isn't broke and I was just wondering who came up with this?

Laura Echelbarger-Well, I guess I can answer this. Ever since I've been on this board it's been something that has been continually talked about. Somebody is always sending an email about it, every membership meeting that we go to, every elders group, every meet and greet, it's always something that the Election Board has been taxed with in answering and it's been something that people have been talking about. That's been for quite some time, it's been a long going conversation.

Bill Ossiginac-Didn't the survey tell you guys anything?

Laura Echelbarger-The survey was answered by a third of the last number of voters from the last election.

Bill Ossiginac-That still tells you something. It's a minority that wants the changes. I have a suspicion that Larry is behind this but that's just my belief, ok, don't take it further than that. He has his hands in everything and, it's just terrible what's going on in our tribe now. This is just another thing that makes people think, what's going on. I don't want to use the word corruption but that fits here. That's all I've got to say.

Chelsea Densmore-Before I start my comment I just want to say that a lot of people are focused on the word proposed, all it is, is a redlined regulation just like Council does, so I don't see why that has become such a hot button, it's literally a redlined proposed just like when Council does regulations. I don't know how many people call in to look at those during the work sessions and stuff. You just look at it, send in your stuff and then they decide if they want to add changes or whatever. I'm assuming that's what you guys are doing, is just like what Council does but I know that's what Council does. They redline it, they put it up for 30-day public comment, they read the comments, they go back and look at the comments and decide if they want to make changes and then they go to vote on it. For my comment, I feel like I've been fairly vocal in my opposition in turning it back to registered voting. I think that it is most beneficial for our tribe to have voting be for all citizens. I think that you have to go back to the rights of citizens, and I think that one of the things that we have an inherent right to is our voice as a citizen. In my opinion that comes with the right to vote, and I always think about my brother when I think about this. My brother is unfortunately not super active, he just doesn't get involved in a lot of stuff, but should he decide that he wants to vote. I was going to run for the Election Board at one point, I put my name up there and ended up pulling it because of some drama from some people, but if he had wanted to vote for me all of a sudden and that was the only vote that he cast or the only thing that he wanted to do, he should have that right to do it. He should be able to decide last second, I'm going to vote for so and so, they really spoke to me, someone mentioned the post card thing, I think someone mentioned the post card thing, I'm actually going to do it, he should be able to. When I think back to when I was 20 and living in Hawaii, I wasn't voting, unfortunately I wasn't that involved in the tribe. I didn't have that connection. Any steps that we are putting in, adding anything extra, does make it harder for citizens in my opinion. I know that you guys said that this has been talked about a lot and it has. I think one thing that nobody is talking about is why you guys are looking at turning this back. How will it benefit the tribe if we go back to registered voters? What I've heard over all of the different conversations at the membership meetings when I've heard the people bring up wanting to bring back registered voters, the big appeal is that it will lower the number of people required for being able to do things at membership meetings, being able to make changes to resolutions and stuff with the law and everything else. So, I think when I look at the constitution, when I read it, I think it was Machele Gibbs that brought it up and she talked about the constitution and in my opinion, I think that the constitution was written in the way of including that 30 % because it gives a general idea of the population of the tribe. When you're looking at getting 30% of the tribe to gather to make changes, whether that's for a recall, changes in a membership meeting, I think that the 30% is there because you want to get the

viewpoints of the entire tribe as much as you can. It's not necessarily to just make that number, so we can say we made this giant change in the tribe, the citizens got together but 30% of the entire citizenship were able to get together and make those changes. I think that registering voters in order to sway that or in order to make things easier for recalls, or whatever, I don't know that's what you guys are doing but I know that it's been a hot topic button that I've heard at all of the membership meetings. That's the thing that always bothers me when it's talked about, I think that it is finding a loophole through the policy and that makes me feel icky. I personally don't like that. I guess, for me, I don't see the benefit in making it harder for citizens to vote, and I've said that many times. I do think if you look at the numbers, the percentages are similar, you're correct, the actual number of people that are participating and actually sending back ballots is higher now, and maybe it's not substantially but it looked to be a third to half more. So, it's a third to double what it was. Maybe I was reading the numbers wrong, maybe I just misunderstood it but it looks like you guys are receiving a lot more ballots, it's still a similar percentage but you've gotten a lot more people to vote. I think it would be most beneficial to the tribe and to the Election Board because it's going to make it harder for you guys to do the registration too. Not only is it harder on the citizens but it's so much more work for the Election Board because now every two, four, six, however many years you have to redo everyone's registration. You have to resend out all of these different cards, you have to go through every single time you have an election, you have to do this stuff. That's going to be so much extra work for you guys as well. Personally, I don't see the benefit to the citizens, and I don't see the benefit to you guys to make this change. While you guys are still looking at it, I hope that this is something that you take into consideration and that you make a choice to take out before you pass the regulations.

Staci Cheney-I agree with Chelsea, I do see that we worked very hard and tirelessly to improve and increase the voters who are participating right now and it's not going to just jump by hundreds of people, but it has increased. Machele said that the constitution requires that the voters be registered to vote, right now as we have it, we are registered to vote. The way that it is implemented is that the Election Board has it so everybody is registered to vote so we are in compliance with our constitution. By changing it the way that you are changing it, I think that the membership as majority is speaking up today and as they did in the survey are concerned because we don't feel like you're listening to us, that we are being heard. It's like the Election Board has their own agenda and you are going to do whatever you want based off of how you feel and as a tribe who supposed to listen to the citizenship, we don't feel heard. And I have a question in regards to the redlines because you're saying you're proposing regulations and right now they are redlined, so the way that Council does it, we sit around a table and we go through what was submitted by the citizens and we discuss that and we decide what should be submitted and changed based off of how many people commented on the submissions and if we're going to omit, for example, the registered voting or if we are going to keep it. So my question is, is the Election Board, when we look at the regulations and all the comments that were submitted are you going to do that in closed or are you going to do it the way that Council does it, where we are going to sit around a table and take into account how many people submitted comments and are you going to do this in an open meeting? That's my question.

Kathy Gibson-In the past when we have proposed regulations and put it out for a 30-day comment what we did is we took that back, put it on a spreadsheet, met with our attorney for a day or two into a closed session meeting and reviewed that information. Because the membership and citizens we are asking for them to comment now and look at that, so whatever comments they have we appreciate and we do look at them individually.

Staci Cheney-Could I just say one more thing? This is where we are asking our Election Board as

citizens to be transparent because if you have 50 or 75 people who have submitted comments and they are all the same comments then why can't we be open about this and see what was submitted. We're asking for transparency. That's my comment. Why isn't it possible to do it the way that Tribal Council does it? It's concerning to me that you guys aren't following a procedures act so why not enact it now? Kathy Gibson-We will definitely take that into consideration, and it is very possible that maybe that is what the Election Board will determine that's the way we want to work it as well.

Roy Vanus-I just see think that according to the constitution says we have to register and if we are registered as tribal citizens, wouldn't that mean that we are already registered? So, we have to fill out a form and send it in that gets sent to us, other than just the voting ballot? There is a few things about the voting that I believe that it should be for all tribal citizens. If you're a member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, you should be able to vote on every position held by every person, on the Council or any position that is held by our government. I see it that it's not that way though, that's what has created a division within our tribe, not an inclusion.

Laura Echelbarger-That would be a secretarial election and it's not something that the Election Board can add to their regulations, it's a secretarial election.

Julie Wolfe-My comment is when you look further in the proposed regulations it is going to be established by the Election Board to maintain and update and keep records of the registered voters. I think that is such a huge conflict and it just opens up the Election Board for a lot more lawsuits and a lot more confusion. You guys are now going to be registering them, maintaining the list and providing the list to the election company you go with. You guys are setting up a lot of work for the Election Board members who are at 5 and there is a lot of extra work into adding this. I do have to agree with other comments that have been made, automatic registration does create and meet the obligation of what is in the constitution for us to be registered voters. Automatic registration. That's exactly what it does. Also, I think when you guys look at...you're setting up the Election Board for election fraud by maintaining that voter registration list instead of going through the enrollment department. There is a lot of checks and balances by having it go through the enrollment department and having the enrollment department providing that list of registered voters. Your list, you're not going to have the up-to-date addresses, you're not going to have...you know, we couldn't count the ballots due to those people who passed on, so what if they register to vote and pass on and they don't send notice to them and their family gets the ballot and votes. There is so much confusion there because it's not following the process and it's not up to date. There are so many burdens on tribal membership that you guys are creating by making us register. Those are my comments.

Machele Gibbs-My question is, we send out how many ballots a year when there is an election?

Laura Echelbarger-In the last one there was 3680 and I did get a recent list and the number went down a little bit but right now we have 3652 18 and above tribal members.

Machele Gibbs-Out of those how many sent ballots back?

Laura Echelbarger-So I think the last one was around 1300.

Machele Gibbs-So that's only maybe roughly 30%, so out of all of those other ballots that are mailed out, how much does that cost for the people that don't send their ballots back.

Laura Echelbarger-There is a significant cost to each election. Each election that we get a new vendor it seems to go up. I think the last one was around, maybe \$15,000. Somewhere through there.

Machele Gibbs-I know it's a touchy subject but personally, we did it before where we had to register and that's just the way it was. Was there a lot of fraud back then? Was there a lot of people that didn't get to vote because I really don't see it going up significantly to say that 30% of the tribe gets to dictate whose elected and whose registered and things like that. To say that 30% of the people...that you need

a higher number to participate, the problem isn't whether we are registered or not, the problem is that people aren't voting . You aren't getting enough people to vote and I was at the membership meeting when we did obtain a quorum. Why would you want to silence the voice of your people? To me that's what is going on, you're silencing the membership so they can't do anything. We're never going to obtain 30% of the membership, everybody lives out of state, there aren't a lot of people that don't come to membership meetings. I see both sides of the coin but you're still not getting the participation that we need.

Kathy Gibson-I just wanted to add on to what Machele was stating. Anyone that has comments or suggestions on how to increase voting with our membership, we are totally open for that. We've tried the pins..please vote. We've used labels at different membership meetings...your vote is important. So we are trying to trying those mechanisms and anybody that has a recommendation or input on how to increase voter participation, we are open to hearing that as well because that is our goal to increase voter participation, every vote does matter, every vote does count.

Al Metzger-I just want to echo the sentiment that I've been hearing that the majority want it to stay the way it is. The constitution is specific, you have to be a registered voter. Right now, the issue is either automatic or mail in a return. You showed numbers earlier, yes, we are at 1300 return voters. It's probably one of the highest number of voting returns in quite a while. When we had to register by that came out to only 656 returned ballots. There was 1400 registered voters at that time, I believe. I just got the two numbers that really matter. We doubled our voting returns. So, I see automatic voting is working. I would just like to leave it the way it is. And as for funding, you know where to come to for funding.

Sara Agosa-My first comment is about the constitution and I'm glad that others have clarified how this works exactly with the constitution because everybody knows you also have to look at our other laws and they fit together. So, the constitution does require registered voting, but the regulations define what a registered voter is on the redline on page 5. If we were out of compliance with the constitution and automatic registered voting then that means that the times when the tribe has changed from registered voting to automatic registered voting then we were out of compliance then too. So, that's my first comment. My second comment is about work sessions and transparency. My experience has been with work sessions and public comment, Tribal Council has never fully changed a document or incorporated a lot of public comments to redlines but they have reviewed public comments so I think that's really shaky ground to rely on that type of meeting to basically disagree with these regulations or that would give us time to reconsider what the Election Board is proposing. Additionally, the Election Board is not following meeting or administrative procedures that tribal members can reference so we have no idea what to expect. The Tribal Council they have rules that we can look up and we know what the steps are what to expect next and what we need to do and when the meeting is scheduled but the Election Board isn't really guaranteeing us any type of official procedure and I also think that is very concerning. Especially with something this important. Additionally, I am really concerned with Kathy Gibson and Laura Echelbarger's view of how this will work and the feedback that they are getting. Laura referenced several different type of meetings but those meetings are only accessible to people who live in the local area. Time and time again, the impact to outlying members is never really thought about or valued so we are making these blanket statements, but we have a very mixed type of membership with different needs. It seems like the outlying members are always omitted or treated less than. Even with the implementation of policies. Our tribe should be inclusive. We should be facilitating that everyone can vote and make it possible for everyone to vote and these changes are going to make it harder and make it harder for a certain class of people which is outlying members. So in closing, I would just like to ask

Kathy Gibson, you stated that this will increase member participation, can you please clarify this statement and your views on this?

Laura Echelbarger-I don't think she said that it would increase participation.

Kathy Gibson-I said we are trying to increase participation, I did not say it will increase participation, we are an Election Board, so it's not individual views, it's the Election Board coming together in one individual unit, as Tribal Council should be as bedabin should be. We are one unit, when you make a decision and you go for a vote, whatever vote is taken and it passes, anyone sitting on those boards or sitting on Council or committee, you should be backing that up because if that vote passes, whatever your personal opinion should be you have an ethical standard to follow whatever that board, committee or commission has taken that vote to be.

Janine Sam-I just want to be very plain, Article 9 of the Constitution is the election section. The reason there is confusion is because under section 2. Election Methods letter A says that 'the conduct for all tribal elections including registration requirements shall be prescribed and provided for by the Election Board'. So that's the election method, voting under section 3 says 'any duly enrolled member of the Little River Band of Ottawa who is at least 18 years old and is registered to vote on the date of any given tribal election shall be eligible to vote in that election'. So, there has been no compliance or non-compliance. When the Election Board said you had to register to vote and had a registration process, that was compliant. I wasn't on the Election Board when any of this stuff happened.

Laura Echelbarger-Not to interrupt you but none of the 5 that are currently on the board were on that board at that time.

Janine Sam-So when the Election Board decided to go to automatic voter registration at the age of 18 its still compliant because the manner of registration, the requirements to register was prescribed and provided for by the Election Board. I just wanted to make that statement because there is a lot of words getting thrown around and these requirements are within the authority of the Election Board to establish. That is just clearly in the constitution. This meeting is an effort in transparency. The posting of the regulations is an effort in transparency. People aren't going to be happy if we don't change it and people aren't going to be happy if we do change it. That's my comment.

Chelsea Densmore-Just to respond to Janine's comment first, I don't think anyone is questioning if you guys have the right to make these changes, I think people are saying you aren't required to make the changes. You said there is no compliance or non-compliance, but you're either one or the other. Both times you were compliant. You decided that to register to vote was to go through a process, that was how it was before, then you decided to register to vote was an automatic process that was done when you turn 18. That's what the board decided, both of which are complaint with what is required. I don't think that part of the conversation, I think that you guys have to come back to what is the benefit to doing this for the entire tribe. I will say, I'd love to hear some comments from the Election Board why they are proposing this. I know when you guys run the meetings, you say to bring your thoughts and concerns to the meeting to be discussed but since you guys are proposing such a big change, I would love to hear your opinions and hear what you are thinking on how this will benefit the tribe. I don't think it will increase voter participation or be less work for you, obviously. I don't think that its going to in any way benefit the election cycle and as the Election Board your focus is the election. It is solely the election; the membership meeting has nothing to do with the board. Quorum is only stated by you, it's still the Ogema's meeting. You guys are just there to count people, in my opinion I think it should be enrollment, but you guys are the ones that do it. I think that you guys are on this board to try and do your best job for the elections and I don't see how this could benefit the elections. I sent this email two years and five days ago, so this is how long this discussion has been going on because I remember

having this same conversation two years ago. There is nothing else in this tribe you can point to, that my engagement or activity as a citizen is changed upon whether I choose to participate. My per cap doesn't matter if I attend meetings or not, I just get it. My right to participate in programs, I just have it, there is nothing else in this tribe that depending on if I register or if I participate, it in any way is changed. So, I don't think our right to participate in elections should be either. I think that this is a citizen right and its working well and I would love to hear how they feel its going to benefit the tribe for the elections if we were to go back to registering.

Kathy Gibson-I will make a comment, as an Election Board we are trying to increase voter participation and if you have to register it may be an increase as to who does actually vote and who doesn't vote because then you are vested. The Secretarial Election, when they had to register to vote, they voted. Then they voted and three hundred and some members closed enrollment. The survey we got back trying to gather information to make a determination on what the Election Board wanted to do, only 8.3% of the tribal members that were registered responded to the survey. We are trying to be transparent, and we want to be and we are trying to get more membership to vote so anything that we can try to do or initiate to get membership to vote and participate is what our goal is.

Chelsea Densmore-Since you did bring up the Secretarial Election, that is one thing that I highlighted two years ago, there were only 955 registered votes of that 409 people, 10% of this tribe, were able to decide to close enrollment. 400 people voted and closed enrollment, that's crazy to me. I understand that you had to register for that one but look how small, it was only 955 people. I understand this totally different but that's such a small percentage and they made such a giant impact to this tribe and its everlasting. I think that this point makes my point more than your point. Kathy Gibson-I appreciate that, but I will just say that we need tribal members that are vested, not just because of per cap or benefits. We need tribal members that are invested so any way that any of you on here currently have ideas or suggestions of how to get tribal members invested, that's what the Election Board is looking to do. We want investment from our membership, of course there will be a difference of opinion. I'll just leave it at that.

Jolene O'Signac-I was going in the direction that Chelsea was. I do appreciate Kathy's comments, I do want to hear from the other Election Board members why you are opting to endeavor to make this change. So, we could start with you Laura.

Kathy Gibson-We are an Election Board and so individual comments on what our personal opinions are will be turned around that we are giving personal opinions and I spoke as an Election Board chair. We are an Election Board, and we are united. When I spoke, that is an Election Board decision and that is what we are trying to do.

Jolene O'Signac-So the Election Board members are allowing you to speak for them?

Kathy Gibson-The question was asked what we are trying to do, and this is what we are trying to do. We are trying to get members to vote, and we want members to be invested. This is an option and a way to try and do that. As we had stated before at membership meetings, whatever we can try and do, we've done buttons and water bottle labels, we've done a couple of surveys now, those have never been done prior and we are trying to gather information. As an Election Board, it's not a personal opinion it's not an individual opinion. When you are on a board or council or commission or committee, you need to come together as one, the tribe needs to come together as one and that's what the board is trying to do. We are coming together as one to try and get the membership invested because we are one.

Laura Echelbarger-And in response to the survey we did get only a third of the last number of voters in the last election and that speaks to this issue also. There are clearly two different sides to this and I think in exploring this we are looking at both sides in a very detailed way and I would think that the

membership would appreciate that.

Jolene O'Signac-I do appreciate Kathy's comment although, each of you are voting individually but yes you come together as a group, but I think as a member I am entitled to hear individual reasoning behind your vote, so I disagree with that.

Laura Echelbarger-Let me just point out that we have not voted on this, this is not a vote.

Jolene O'Signac-I realize that. This is a meeting where members can gather information and I'm hearing 'I'm going to speak for the entire group' and if that is the way that you guys want to do it, that's your call but personally I wouldn't want to be part of a group that I wasn't able to explain my thought process on it. I do also want to address Kathy's issue about thinking by having voters register that is making them making a greater commitment, that may or may not be true, I think we get the same people to vote voting regularly, but you have to realize the wider net you throw the more you're going to gather. So, limiting the voting isn't going to increase it, sending it to everybody and continuing to make them want to vote is what the Election Board should be working toward that direction. I do have very big concerns that the membership wants are not being heard.

Staci Cheney-In regard to voter participation, pens, water bottles, those are great but again who are those going to? They are probably going to membership meetings where the majority of those people are voting. I am hearing from people when I make cold calls those people aren't voting yet and when I asked them what can we do to get you to vote and they want information. Laura, you did a good job at posting candidate information on the Facebook page, but it was limited to 200 words. By limiting it to 200 words on a Facebook page, when it's a Facebook page, I sort of see that as a way to limit information. It wasn't getting printed and sent out to the membership, so give us as much information as you can about the candidates. Let them tell their story and I think that people want to know who they are voting for and as much information as possible is better. One thing that is very discouraging to me when people talk about the money that is spent on the election, we bleed money in this tribe, the budget speaks volumes. I as a citizen don't want to hear about that, when we vote it's the one time that our voices are heard, and I want a vote and I don't want to have to jump through hoops to vote. I want to be able to call everybody that I can to vote and if I have to tell them, well its past the time to register to vote so you can't vote this time because it's the last minute or I can't say you didn't get a voter ballot this time because you didn't register to vote, that's unacceptable. I know that I spent hours and hours, and there is a group of us that do this and it's not to vote for this person or that person, it's just to get people to vote. When you look at the numbers that you just pulled up, even when we had them vote for the secretarial election and only certain people could vote, only a third of them voted on certain topics. So that's not the solution if you really analyze the numbers. It's important for us to have our rights. Members are so selected on what we can do, and voting is the one time that we can use our voice and I'm pleading with you to just think about that for a minute. Like Chelsea said, your job is to run our elections, and do a good job at running them. Its not about meeting quorum at a membership meeting, which you guys do a good job when you're there but that's not what this is about. This is about making it so that we can reach out to the citizens who aren't involved and get them involved. So, I'm just asking you to seriously consider that.

Israel Stone-I've heard a lot of discussion this evening, just in the short time that I've joined this discussion. I want to say for one, I appreciate this body being proactive and looking at this.

Unfortunately, a lot of times people refer to our citizens as members, like this is some kind of club and it's not. It's a nation. This nation, just like any other, needs to have proper protocols, rules, and regulations in place to govern how elections occur within the nation. It's unfortunate to me when I hear the comments being made, your job isn't being at the membership meeting, that's a misstatement in a lot

of ways but constitutionally, the general powers of the membership of this tribe, that is one of your obligations. It's a completely separate and aside from the electoral process, the citizens of this tribe with quorum are allowed to exercise their right on behalf of the government. Now, that does have certain constraints as far as changing budgets and such, but we have the ability as citizens to exercise our power to establish legislation and make changes in our tribe. You do have a responsibility to be at those membership meetings, that's one of your responsibilities to be there to govern the election process. The second thing I'll say is when presidential elections come up or congressional elections come up, I can't just walk into the voting booth and vote. I have to prove a-that I'm a citizen of the tribe, b-that I reside in the proper area to register a vote. I'm going to say that you guys are very generous in these election processes because there are a lot of tribes that don't allow off reservation voting. You have to return not only to the reservation but to your district to be able to vote. I have heard questions about ballots getting sent out and people filling them out and family members filling them out and sending them in, there is nothing to say that isn't happening right now. When you have mass mailings of ballots going out and multiple to some residences, there is nothing to assure that it is being voted on by a real Indian. There is nothing to ensure that citizens of this tribe are filling out their ballots and sending them back in. In fact, I have heard many stories of people filling out ballots for other people and returning those ballots. But it gets down to the heart of the matter is, when you start to dissect this issue and you are looking at it from a position of being proactive and looking for solutions to all of these challenges that we face as a nation in our electoral processes I applaud that. You guys were elected by the citizens of this tribe to represent us and assure that our election process is accurate, transparent, and truthful as possible. I expect you to make these decisions on behalf of the citizens, that's what we voted for you for. The thing that disturbs me the most about a lot of the discussion that is happening here this evening is I keep hearing about sides, people are framing as 9 county, Outlying, At large, the reality is until we get rid of that kind of mentality and we start looking at ourselves as one nation, regardless of where we live geographically across the country as one people, and we have the same vested interests and that's the long term viability of the tribe for future generations of the tribe to come. When we start dissecting and breaking it down to districts and unfortunately that's the way our constitution was amended but the process that we continue to go through on a regular basis with these elections, yes, it was yes you had to register previously, then it was changed to everyone who is 18 is registered, here is the problem with that mentality. There is nothing to say that half of those ballots that are returned are informed voters of this tribe and actually truly know what's happening in the community, who it is that they are voting for, a lot of people may be sending in ballots without the proper information and taking the time to do their due diligence and taking the time to find out what is happening in our nation. So, you can look at that both ways, well, you're eliminating people returning ballots, but on the flip side you have people returning ballots that have limited information and the fact that I hear people saying its somebodies responsibility to inform the people, no..it's the citizens responsibility to go out and be informed, find out the information, make educated decisions on who they're voting for and what issues are important to them. So, the reality of the situation is, I agree that the statement that was made earlier. There is in the constitution a prescribed process and it says registered voter, it didn't contemplate everybody being a registered voter. The reality of the situation is everybody in the united states of American isn't a registered voter. It's a choice. It's democracy. It's up to the individual to choose whether or not if they want to register to vote and weigh in and vote. It's the beauty of the democratic process that we have. When you look at it from that perspective, yes, you can say this will diminish voters, or you could say that it changes the landscape but that could be both positive changes as well as people are making it seem to be negative changes. My opinion is I would rather have an informed voter going to the ballot

box or sending in a ballot than an unformed voter because that is how you end up with constitutional changes that shut down your enrollment or that, quite frankly, make decision that make a deleterious impact on this tribe. If you want to be involved, it's as simple as signing the form, sending it back in and registering to vote. I don't think that's too big of an ask. You're not asking them to pay a fee, you're not asking them to jump through a bunch of hoops, fill out your voter registration. That's no different than any other jurisdiction in the land. That's my opinion on it. I thank you guys for taking the time to get input and feedback from people, unfortunately a lot of times in these types of discussions, when it's a hot button issue, people line up on the phone to weigh in on one side or the other. The side that I'm going to weigh in on, you guys are elected to make this decision, I trust you to make this decision and I hope you make the right decision.

Julie Wolfe-I wanted to speak on Section 2 A, where its talking about the responsibility of the registered voter to maintain accurate voter registration records and you guys delete the enrollment part and take that on the Election Board. I believe you should leave it with the enrollment department, they have a standardized process to keep your enrollment address and everting verified and up to date. With the Election Board taking on that responsibility and eliminating it to 35 days prior to a schedule regular election, it just causes confusion and chaos. Members aren't going to be able to follow through and follow with that. Section B 2, inaccurate mailing addresses, again ballots shall not be sent to those registered voters who do not have a valid mailing address on file with the Election Board. Where is the standard of practice. How is that going to be verified. There is nothing that is going to qualify that, that is a valid mailing address if its just the Election Board and you only submitted it 35 days before the regularly scheduled or special election. Those things, you're taking out the process of the enrollment department that has a software database and can reach every member, all of the other departments that provide services do use the standard information provided by the enrollment department before providing services. The Election Board is an independent body that is taking that process out of verification for tribal members, and I think that's a disservice for members when you guys want to include that or make that mandate. When we look at these other...go up to chapter 2 section 1, and we have the physical address and mailing address for member identification, the tribal id, two witnesses to sign your voters registration, then when we send it in and we don't have all of that documented, the Election Board again gets to decide if the voters registration card to the member is accurate and if they are going to be issued one. That's a lot of paperwork and that's a lot of burden. If you think of a person who is at a poverty level and they have limited income coming in and then they need to register to vote and they don't have their state id and they need the 35 dollars to go get their state id and it doesn't match the id on what they have on file with enrollment and it doesn't match what they send in or submit to you, where are they getting those copies from? And you guys didn't say that you're doing a mass mailing to encourage all voters to register, it says you must request voter registration from the election or download one. Poverty level people aren't downloading a voter's registration, they are not going to have the ability to go get that. If I have limited income and I need 4 dollars to run to the library and download this and print the document and I don't have those 4 dollars, you eliminated me out of the process. Some of those hardships you aren't considering for individual members. You're thinking you are going to make everything better and improve voter engagement and investment. What makes you invested in this nation is your enrollment card and when you've registered in rolls and you knew who you are and you wanted to be with your people. Requiring you to register to vote doesn't make you vested, I don't even understand your logic behind that. You're an enrolled citizen of this nation, member, whichever word you want to use, you should have the right to vote without registration. That's it. It's simple as that. Proposed changes like a lot what Mr. Stone said are based on making quorum and making

changes, but we need to engage our people and let them and you talk about suggestions of how to get more people involved, this is going to limit them by the amount of information that is dispersed and how they complete the processes and the multi steps to completing the process. That's going to eliminate many many people the opportunity to voice their opinion and participate in elections. You want more voter participation, ramp up your campaign, send out more information, go nationwide, rock the vote, I get that you guys are doing more but your outreach is limited. You're not reaching every tribal member. Every tribal member didn't receive a button or water bottle sticker, every tribal member not going to receive a notice to register to vote just like every tribal member didn't receive a note that you guys are proposing to change regulations. We received the survey and you're disregarding the survey by those suggested proposed changes and it's not about making everyone happy, it's about doing what's best for the tribe.

Al Metzger-I want to get hypothetical here, say you've got 3000 registered voters, or we have 3000 eligible voters, and we have to sign up to register to vote. What if you only get 299 applications for registration to vote. That's less than 10%, are you going to be able to run an election, hypothetically. Sara Agosa-Something I noticed when reviewing the redline when I was checking the constitution, in the constitution absentee voting is listed as a constitutional right and I can't find anything in the ordinance or regulations about absentee voting.

Laura Echelbarger-Because everybody gets a ballot.

Sara Agosa-I understand that, but the big push, even from the Election Board seems to want to establish quorum at membership meetings which you have to vote in person, however if you incorporate absentee voting which is a constitutional right, it would allow more people to vote and there would be more equal representation.

Kathy Gibson-Sara, I just want to address your absentee voting. On page 2 of our definitions a-absentee voting means casting a vote by mail in ballot in lieu of casting a vote by in person ballot.

Sara Agosa-I understand that, however, at the membership meeting to establish quorum is there allowance for absentee voting?

Kathy Gibson-Again, I will just state again, its talking specific to mail in ballot.

Sara Agosa-This is a really serious issue because I think it should be distinguished apart from polling places as your home. At the membership meeting absentee voting is allowed so that there is equal representation to meet quorum if indeed the Election Board essentially ignores all of the feedback you've been given and goes ahead with these changes. There has to be a middle way.

Kathy Gibson-Please put that in writing that you would like that entered under chapter 8 membership meetings page 40?

Lee Iverson-That's just what I was going to say, very good point, Sara. Please submit that for a comment.

Sara Agosa-I have some other comments really quick; I'll keep it short. I agree with what other members have said that we really should be focused on equal access to voting and there are mechanisms that we can put into place to do that. Right now, we don't have those mechanisms in place, for instance, with federal elections and absentee ballots you can apply for an absentee ballot in person by mail or through an online registration system. Nowhere in the regulations have I come across that the Election Board will institute an online system to facilitate people to get registered. So, if indeed you do go forward with these changes, that the infrastructure is set up to make it very easy and seamless. I also wanted to respond and I've heard this quite a bit from people live in that area, that its really on the tribal member to be involved, the tribal member must take it upon themselves, must be vested, and I am really kind of disheartened by those sentiments given our historical trauma, our displacement, a lot of our

families had to move out of the area for jobs and that the Larry Romanelli administration has not prioritized education and information, sharing information....

Kathy Gibson-Sara, is this in relation to the Election Board regulations?

Sara Agosa-Yes it does, this is a direct response to what I've been hearing in this meeting. The Election Board also is responsible to educate and inform tribal members but that is just a very invalidating comment, because there are a lot of hardships for people. I've also noticed that this community in particular doesn't really understand the consequence of oppression of native people, in fact Israel Stone, his comment that we really shouldn't have to work to get people to vote. In fact, I pulled up an article Jim Crow, Indian Style-how native Americans were denied the right to vote

Laura Echelbarger-Sara, We're getting way off the topic and bring it back to the regulations. We aren't going to make anything personal.

Sara Agosa-Yes, it really seems to me that the board members do have an agenda and are not listening to the people. Laura, I would like to say that your response to me while talking about repression and the injustice of our people is very reflective of this community and voting has been a really serious hardship for native people, even now across the US there has been some issues in New Mexico that have just been identified and surfaced in the news. So, I have the right to speak and speak my heart and speak for my experience and this is tied into voting. In closing, I will say, and this is back to Kathy Gibson that you move as a board and you cannot share your personal opinions, we voted for each board member, we did, we voted in each board member ran individually. We are entitled to transparency and to know how you are coming to your decisions and that also means passing any regulations or legislation in a formal meeting with a public vote.

Chelsea Densmore-I just want to say a couple things, I disagree everything Sara said. First, please do not lump my Mom into the Manistee group when it's convenient for you, she's the only outlying citizen on the board and she works her *** off, so not handling it.

Sara Agosa-Inappropriate, point of order.

Chelsea Densmore-Couldn't care less, this isn't a council meeting. The other thing I wanted to say when you're talking about absentee voting that literally is the mail in ballot, when you're talking about establishing quorum in a meeting, that is establishing the people that are actively at the meeting. The whole reason the last thing was tossed out was because they lost quorum. The whole conversation is just about quorum, so you can't have absentee voting at something that is spur of the moment as the membership meeting. The whole point of the quorum conversation is to establish that 30% in that vicinity, whether that is online or in person, you can talk about that, but it doesn't have anything to do with absentee voting. I want to say that I appreciate you guys staying on because it's been almost two hours, you all look broken, and I really appreciate all you're doing here. I do know how much you do and how hard it is. I am very openly opposed to this but I do think you should keep it the way it is and you consider it. When you are looking at going over the comments or when you are closing comments and you could close it before your next meeting and then maybe at the next meeting you'll be able to summarize and go over things there. It's not necessarily a work session but it gives people another option to hear how things are going. I think Kathy had asked for additional ways to increase voter participation, because in my opinion, this won't do that, I don't think that going back to that will increase voter participation but I think that any way that we can get more people active and participating whether that is attending council meetings or participating in elections or joining committees and commission we should be doing that. In my opinion, I do think that one way that would be really beneficial to you guys would be to send out more information about the candidates so maybe putting up a website where people upload videos would be a really good idea. I know that you have to look at

conflict of interest stuff and all of that with debates and everything, but I think a debate would be amazing. I think when you guys did the newspaper that was a great idea, so I think those are ways you could increase...and you are increasing voter participation, but I don't think registering is going to be helpful.

Laura Echelbarger-With that I do want to respond to Chelsea, Staci and Sara, one thing we cannot do is force candidates to participate in their bio's or posting their information. Some candidates are very thankful for that and others do not want us to post anything to do with them. All we can do is post their name on the list so that citizens know that we did try to get their information and it was not sent to us. So, I did want to clarify that one fact for everyone.

Staci Cheney-I wasn't saying that you had to post more than they gave you or require it, I was just saying that if it was available that you could add it. I know that Kathy said that she was willing to listen to people's ideas of how we can engage for more participation, Maybe just as an idea, if there are people that are willing to volunteer their time with the Election Board to come up and brainstorm ideas of how we could increase participation, maybe you could form a group outside of a public meeting and just listen to some of those ideas, or we could submit ideas. I don't know if you're open to that but I know that I would definitely be willing to spend some time doing that. If you're open to that, that's something that I know that I and some other people would probably be willing to do, if you wanted to post something like that and see if people would be willing to volunteer their time to see if we could get increased ideas. I think that it would definitely be something that people would be willing to do.

Kathy Gibson-I think we can do a work session or something like that and implement that. Thank you for that. I think that's a great idea.

Roy Vanus-When I hear a council member saying that there are people of our tribe that aren't able to get to computers or to the site, or to register for a vote....

Julie Wolfe-I said that as a citizen not as a council member, please clarify for him.

Roy Vanus-Ok, when I hear a citizen say that then, that people can't reach out, they have to reach out to get a membership card don't they?

Kathy Gibson-Yes.

Roy Vanus-That shows their actual attempt at becoming vested to do something for their tribe. If they didn't get their percap check, they are going reach out for that. To reach out for an ability to vote, its seems odd, normal and acceptable. I do believe that I would like to see everybody have a chance to vote for every position, not just some members get to vote on one thing and some citizens get to vote on another. I just don't see the point in that, but I do see that it's not incapable. I do my best to try to reach out to citizens that I speak with, if they can't get on the government website, I will try to help them get on there. If they can't get on even a Facebook page, which I know that there is a whole lot of people who can't get on the outlying Facebook page because of the moderator to that doesn't allow people on there that aren't who he deems fit to be on there, I believe his term is 'real Indians of the tribe'.

Kathy Gibson-If we could move on, it is getting late.

Machele Gibbs-I would like to see a candidate forum held in the Election Board oversee the people that are running for election if they want to participate, moderate a meeting to get to know the candidates and questions asked by the membership. I think that would be something that would maybe help and you guys can live stream it or put it on your website. I think that would be a positive thing. I would also like to say, I may be unpopular for saying this, it seems to me that every meeting we get on someone has to make it political and whether you like a certain council member, Ogema or whoever, you need respect that position. We hear nothing but corruption, and I just want to say to the people who believe there is all this corruption, we need to prove it and I'll leave it right there.

Mike Ceplina-I was just saying that I think it's going to be harder on your Election Board members if you go back to the old way, it will be more work and there will be a lot more things being said about the Election Board. Maybe at one point in time maybe we can put some initiatives or referendums on a ballot for people to vote and maybe we can get more people to vote that way. I just want to thank all of you for doing a great job.

Julie Wolfe- Miigwetch to the Election Board and all of the membership who showed up to voice their opinions to make it heard. Hopefully we work through this together and its not about who is happy and who is not happy, it's about doing what is best for the members. I hope that is the direction that we are going for.

Machele Gibbs-I forgot to mention that I would like to get rid of voter districts, I would to see everyone vote for everyone like they do for Ogema and the Election Board.

Laura Echelbarger-That is definitely a secretarial election. Thank you to everyone for coming to the meeting tonight. Please continue to send your comments to us.

V. Adjournment

Laura Echelbarger made a motion to adjourn open session at 9:17PM, Seconded by Shawna Gonzalez.

Kathy Gibson – Yes	Laura Echelbarger - Yes	Janine Sam - Yes
Shawna Gonzalez - Yes	Lee Ivinson - Yes	