

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes for March 13, 1994

APPROVED

4/18/94

I. General Business

a. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm at the Old Town Restaurant by Chairman Dan Bailey.

b. Roll Call. Board members present: Dan Bailey, Bonnie Kenny, Bob Guenthardt, Margaret Chandler, Anne Avery, Kathy Berentsen. Board members absent: Marcella Luesby
Staff present: Mark Dougher, Diane Lonn, Ginger Johnson. Guests: Bill Brooks. Numerous community members were present.

c. Adoption of Agenda. Kathy made a motion and Bonnie seconded to accept the Agenda with two revisions: 1) to add item #c. under Old Business concerning the Adopt-A-Forest program, and 2) to add item #g. under New Business concerning the Grand River Band. Approved unanimously.

d. Adoption of Minutes. Bonnie made a motion and Dan seconded to accept the January 19, 1994 board meeting minutes with the correction that Anne's name be added as "present" under Roll Call. Approved unanimously. Kathy motioned and Anne seconded to approve the February 7, 1994 board meeting minutes with the correction of Kathy's last name. Approved unanimously.

e. Financial Report. Three financial statements were included in the board packets: the expense report for the month of February, the current LRB operating budget, and the projected operating budget for the next fiscal year (beginning April, 1994). Mark noted that according to our current operating budget under ANA, we are projecting a surplus of approximately \$ 6,500. After our first quarter tax payment, we may have at least \$4,000 left unexpended. Our new ANA grant, projected to begin on April 1, 1994, is anticipated to be only \$80,000. The CHD grant is only \$24,667.

Mark recommended that we utilize the unexpended/unobligated remainder of the current ANA grant by 1) purchasing a large quantity of needed office supplies at an amount estimated at \$500.00, and 2) amend our contracts with both MILS and Dr. James McClurken to account for the additional work performed by both consultants over the last year. Part of the reason for this recommended supplement is also to account for the fact that under our next year's projected operating budget, we have very limited funds to contract with both parties and yet the work they will be expected to perform will be substantial.

There was also discussion about whether we would have sufficient funds to rent the office next door, and if some of these unexpended funds could be committed through a contract with the landlord. Mark was directed to negotiate a rental agreement with the landlord, and to determine the heating costs of the other office, as measures for evaluating whether the rental would be feasible.

Bill Brooks suggested that it would not be necessary to supplement our contract with MILS. Rather, he recommended that any additional funds be added to Jim McClurken's contract given that Bill envisioned more work would be expected of Jim over the next year, than that of MILS.

A motion was made by Bonnie and seconded by Anne to 1) allow for the purchase needed office supplies, estimated at \$500.00; 2) negotiate a rental agreement with Fred Meduna over the next year and if necessary, commit part of the unexpended funds for this purpose, as long as the agreement is consummated prior to March 30, 1994; and 3) If funds allow, renegotiate a contract with Jim McClurken to account for the additional work performed. Approved unanimously.

f. Staff Reports. Diane gave a report on the Victorian Port City Festival Committee meetings. The Committee has agreed to contribute up to \$500.00 towards the cost of hiring a drum and dance troupe for the Festival. If the cost were to exceed that limit then we might have to make up the difference. Diane also wanted to know if the Board would be willing to make a donation towards the advertising costs of the Festival again this year. Last year we donated \$100.00. Diane also committed that we would again donate artwork for the Festival raffle - a dreamcatcher and a mandela. There was also a question about whether Frank Ettawageshik would be willing or able to demonstrate his pottery for the Festival. Anne made a motion and Kathy seconded to donate \$100.00 again towards the Festival advertising costs for this year. Approved unanimously.

Also under staff reports, Mark submitted for board approval the contract between Pirtle, Morrisset, Schlosser & Ayer and Little River for the purpose of providing training on topics pertaining to the roles and responsibilities of tribal government. Bill Brooks has reviewed the contract and everything is in order. Bob motioned and Bonnie seconded to direct Dan to sign the contract on behalf of the board. Approved unanimously.

Mark received a request from Brian Kwapil, Public Museum of Grand Rapids, for permission to use photographic images obtained by Dr. James McClurken on behalf of Little River purposes, in the Anishnabek Exhibit. Bonnie motioned and Dan seconded to allow for the Public Museum of Grand Rapids to obtain copies of photographs from Jim McClurken for use in the Anishnabek Exhibit. Approved unanimously.

Bonnie motioned and Dan seconded to accept the staff reports. Approved unanimously.

II. Old Business

a. Status of the Federal Acknowledgement Petition.

Mark handed out copies of the new Revised Regulations governing the Federal Acknowledgement Process, which were published in the Federal Register on February 25, 1994. Mark and Bill Brooks discussed and explained the various changes to the new regulations and how those changes effect our preparation of Little River's petition. They also discussed their respective meetings with Holly Record, Branch Chief of the B.A.R. and the apparent futility of dealing with non-Indian bureaucrats, like Holly, who have fixed conceptions regarding what constitutes a "tribe". Bill Brooks assessment was that the new regulations offer tribes like Little River and Little Traverse a slim to none probability of obtaining federal recognition through this process.

b. Status of Federal Legislation. Mark noted that we have received no news other than the mark-up on S. 1357 before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee is projected to take place sometime within the next month.

Bill Brooks commented that, given that our legislation may be enacted in the next few months, we need to finalize and adopt a suitable governing document that more accurately defines our authority as a tribal government. He recommended that the board appoint a Constitution Committee to work with him on a regular basis to review and finalize the draft constitution we have pending.

Margaret made the motion and Bonnie seconded to create a Constitution Review Committee composed of at least two board members and at least two community members. Approved unanimously. The board then appointed Bonnie Kenny, Bob Guenthardt, Kathy Berentsen, Andrea Waitner and Mary Oleniczak to work with Bill Brooks on finalizing the proposed constitution & by-laws. The first meeting will take place on March 23, 6:30 pm at the tribal office.

c. Adopt-A-Forest Program. Dan talked reviewed the program and its purpose with contributing comments by Anne Avery and Brandy Sly. We had previously agreed to adopt Horsehoe Bend as the area Little River volunteers would clean up.

We need to provide the Forest Service with two things. First, we need to provide them with a map of the specific area that we, as an organization, will be adopting under this program. Second, we need to provide the Forest Service with a list of the volunteers so that liability insurance can be provided by the Forest Service for the named volunteers. Anne commented that she didn't think that was necessary, that it was sufficient to merely have the organization registered as the volunteer. Others comments contributed to this idea, insofar as it would be impractical to anticipate every possible volunteer who might work on a given day for the clean up. Dan said he would find out if this was feasible.

III. New Business

a. Consumers Power Lawsuit. Bill Brooks explained the basis for the lawsuit between Consumers Power and the State of Michigan and the outcome of the case. In summary, the basis for the lawsuit filed by the State of Michigan and various environmental groups concerned the destruction of fishery and wildlife resulting from certain facilities operated by Consumers Power. Part of the settlement of the lawsuit involves the transfer of property from Consumers to the State.

Our potential involvement in this matter concerns the fact that the historical Indian Village settlement on the Manistee River is now owned by Consumers and is slated to be one of the properties transferred to State jurisdiction. Bill believes that Little River may have an opportunity to reacquire the Indian Village property by claiming that this land has historical and cultural significance to the tribe.

Bonnie motioned and Kathy seconded to direct Bill Brooks to represent the interests of Little River on this matter in a manner that will hopefully result in the tribe reacquiring Indian Village.

b. Indian Village Archeological Project. Jim McClurken was intending to be at the meeting to outline this proposed project to the board. He couldn't make it today, but Mark briefly explained that this would involve applying for funding to do an archeological study of the Indian Village homesites. The applicant would be the MSU Museum. Hopefully, Jim will be at the next board meeting to elaborate on this proposal. Anne made a motion and Bonnie seconded to pursue this project with the MSU Museum. Approved unanimously.

Anne went on to explain about the Forest Service trail from Red Bridge to Hodenpyl Dam and the fact that the Forest Service is considering naming the trail. She recommended that Little River submit a request that the trail be named after Alex Sams, given his long service at Chittenden Nursery. Anne made motion to this effect and Bonnie seconded. Connie Waitner recommended that the motion be amended - that the trail be identified as the "Elder's Trail", in honor of all of the Little River elders who have passed on. The amendment was accepted. Approved unanimously

c. Earth Day. Mark noted that Earth/Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 24th at the Lake Bluff Audobon. Organizers have asked if Little River would conduct the opening ceremony and again be willing to have a booth. The board agreed to do both and directed Dan to obtain the consent of a pipe carrier to conduct the opening ceremony.

d. National Forest Service - Surplus Property. Katie Glocheski explained that while at the recent public hearing concerning the proposed Manistee River Management Plan, she had a conversation with Rick Martensen from the Cadillac District of the Forest Service. He told Katie that there were plans underway by the Forest Service to sell their property at the corner of M-55 and Tippy Dam Road.

Anne Avery noted that she was meeting next week with Steve Kelly, Supervisor for the Huron-Manistee National Forest, and that she would ask him about this matter. The board appointed a committee comprised of Anne Avery, Connie Waitner and Millicent Biers to investigate this matter and to request that Little River be notified whenever the Forest Service may be disposing of any property within Manistee, Mason, Wexford or Lake Counties.

e. National Forest Service - Manistee River Management Plan.

There was discussion about the recent public hearing over the proposed Plan and the various alternatives presented. Many people had not made it to the hearing and wanted to know more about the proposed alternatives. It was decided that Dan would request representatives from the Forest Service to speak before a gathering of interested Little River community members in the near future so that the tribal community could have specific input on this issue.

f. Ottawa Place Names. Bonnie explained that Jim McClurken is looking for the Ottawa names of places in the Little River territory to include in the tribe's ethnohistory. If anyone has any knowledge of these traditional names please contact her or Mark.

g. Grand River Band. Bill Brooks explained that he is now working with a board of Ottawa people, based in Grand Rapids, organized as the Grand River Band. They intend to petition for federal recognition and apply for ANA funding. Because of our common history, Bill recommended that we do what we can to assist them.

IV. Concluding Business

a. Next Meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for Sunday, April 10th at 1 pm at Margaret's house.

b. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm from a motion made by Kathy, seconded by Bonnie. Approved unanimously.