



LITTLE RIVER BAND  
OF OTTAWA INDIANS

409 Water Street  
Manistee, Michigan 49660  
616-723-8288

LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
APRIL 18, 1994

I. General Business

a. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by Chairman Daniel Bailey, at the Old Town restaurant.

b. Roll Call. Board members present: Daniel Bailey, Bonnie Kenny, Margaret Chamdler, Marcella Luesby, Bob Guenthardt, Anne Avery and Kathy Berentsen. Staff present: Mark Dougher, Diane Lonn and Ginger Johnson. Guests: Al Colby, Sr., Al Colby, Jr., Jerry Guenthardt, Jim Bransky, Bill Brooks, Jim McClurken, Mary Oleniczak, Dale Chandler.

c. Adoption of Agenda. Kathy motioned and Anne seconded to adopt the agenda, without revision. Approved unanimously.

d. Adoption of Minutes. Anne motioned and Kathy seconded to adopt the minutes of the last board meeting, without revision. Approved unanimously.

e. Financial Report. Mark reviewed the financial report submitted by Loretta Staff. Margaret motioned and Annie seconded to approve the financial report. Approved unanimously.

f. Staff reports. Diane and Ginger submitted written reports. Mark reported that the Earth/Arbor day is April 24 at the Lake Bluff Audobon Center and that we needed volunteers to staff our booth from 12pm until 4pm. Ron Wemigwase, a pipe carrier from Little Traverse would conduct the opening ceremony for Earth Day. After the opening ceremony we need to go to the dedication at the bridge south of Custer. Ron will conduct the blessing there too.

On May 20th the Michigan Indian Commission will have their meeting here at the Manistee Township Hall. We need to have volunteers to help with set-up and to prepare lunch for the Commissioners and guests.

Although we have received verbal approval from ANA on our grant award, we have not yet received the actual written grant award. The grant period was supposed to begin on April 1, 1994. We are still able to operate because we have the CHD grant.

Mark requested a decision on how the Board wishes to reallocate the computers donated to Little River by EDS. We had originally requested 12 computers, but we ended up receiving 18. Several of them had to be repaired by Peter Kang and we didn't know until recently whether all 18 were useable. We have already arranged for the delivery of the computers to the other historic tribes. Richard Wilson, Attorney for Gockerman, Wilson, Saylor & Stone, has requested six computers that he said he needs for his law office. We also know that there are various nonprofit organizations in Manistee that could use computers, like the Teen Center, Choices and the Humane Society.

After some discussion the Board directed Mark to ascertain specifically which local nonprofits need computers and how many. The Board was unwilling to donate six computers to Mr. Wilson, but did agree to follow through with our original intention to donate one to him. It was to be stipulated that the donation of a computer to Richard Wilson was based on the Board's assumption that he would use the computer only for personal purposes. Margaret motioned and Anne seconded that one computer donated to Little River by EDS be given to Richard Wilson under the conditions prescribed above. Approved with one abstention.

On another matter, Anne commented that we need to write a letter to Steve Kelly, Supervisor of the Huron-Manistee National Forest about the naming of the trail along the west side of the Manistee River from Red Bridge to Hodenpyl Dam - "elder's trail". Mark was directed to write the letter to request it be so named. Bonnie motioned and Bob seconded to approve the staff reports. Approved unanimously.

## II. Old Business

### a. Status of the Federal Acknowledgement Petition

Dr. James McClurken was present to report on the status of the ethnohistorical report. He is completing the fifth chapter which documents the tribe's history up to the 1930's. The sixth and last chapter will span from the 1930's to the present. This may very well prove to be the most difficult chapter to write because documentation of local tribal history is sporadic. Preparation of the last chapter will depend more on the information provided in the taped interviews by various elders.

One of Jim's researchers, Barb Loyer, has been transcribing the taped interviews and will soon be here to review and finalize the transcriptions with the people who had been interviewed. She will contact the appropriate people to make appointments soon. To date there are over 1,000 pages transcribed.

Marcella commented that one of the things that her elders talked about was water rights - that the treaties never ceded our rights to the water. Jim agreed that this was a legal matter that needed to be explored.

b. Status of Federal Legislation

Mark reported that S. 1357 had been successfully reported out of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee on April 13, 1994. Although several Republicans voted against the bill, the ranking Republican on the Committee, Senator McCain abstained from the vote. This was a very positive matter for us, given his previous political stance on legislative recognition. Now the Indian Affairs Committee needs to prepare a report on S. 1357 and have it filed before the full Senate can take action on our bill. But this all could be done in the next couple weeks.

There has been no further action on H.R. 2376. The House Natural Resources Committee must still meet to "mark-up" the bill and we have received no word on a date yet. Chairman Dan Bailey recently sent letters to three of the congressional co-sponsors of H.R. 2376, requesting that they please help to expedite action by the House Natural Resources Committee. If this takes place soon, it is conceivable that the legislation could pass Congress in the next couple months.

c. Enrollment Committee Update

Diane reported that the Enrollment Committee meetings have been progressing well. The Committee has been meeting every other week, reviewing about 25 completed applications per meeting. But Diane expressed that the Committee needs the Board to clarify whether they, as a Committee, have the authority to make the final determinations of eligibility for membership. If so, they were prepared to send out letters to those applicants who were approved for membership. There was some discussion about how this should be done, from a procedural standpoint. There was also discussion about whether the tribe should issue membership cards.

d. Constitution Committee Report

Bill Brooks reported that the Constitution Committee has been meeting on a weekly basis over the last month to review and revise the draft Constitution & By-laws. The Committee is trying to have the governing document completed by May, to submit to the Board for review and approval. Bill recommended that both the Enrollment and Constitution Committees should meet together soon to review Article III - Membership, particularly Sections 5 & 6. Both Committees should also review the File Maintenance Procedure for Enrollment Files that Bill drafted as a proposed ordinance to define enrollment procedures.

III. New Business

a. Indian Village Archeological Project

Jim McClurken reported on the proposed project involving an archeological excavation of the Indian Village homestead sites. This would be a cooperative project between the Little River Band and MSU Museum and funding would be sought from the National

Science Foundation. Jim estimated that the project would likely take 3-5 years and would provide opportunities for younger tribal members to gain experience and college credit in archeological field work. The project would include interviewing elders who grew up in Indian Village and could talk about their experiences. Indian Village is a significant settlement because our people continued to live a subsistence lifestyle (hunting, fishing and trapping) longer than any other Indian settlement in Michigan. Jim proposed to come up on May 1, 1994 with Prof. Chuck Cleland, MSU to meet with us and visit the village site.

b. Elders Luncheon at Little Traverse

Diane reported that she has arranged to have us go up to the Little Traverse office for an elders luncheon on May 26, 1994. Anyone interested in going is welcome but we need to know well enough in advance so that Al Colby, LTBB Director can order sufficient food. Anne and Bonnie both offered to drive, but we may need additional drivers depending on how many go. While we are there we are also planning to attend the Blackbird Museum in Harbor Springs as well as the Indian Hills Trading Post.

IV. Concluding Business

a. Next Meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for May 15, 1994 at the Horseshoe Bend pavillion. We will be having our Adopt-a-Forest clean-up and potluck starting at 11:00am.

b. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.