

LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING  
MAY 31, 1994 - MINUTES

I. General Business

a. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Bonnie Kenny, Vice-Chairperson at 6:20pm at the tribal office.

b. Roll Call. Board members present: Bonnie Kenny, Anne Avery, Margaret Chandler, Bob Guenthardt, Jerry Guenthardt (proxy for Marcella). Dan Bailey and Kathy Berentsen arrived late. Staff present: Mark Dougher, Ginger Johnson and Diane Lonn. Guests: Bill Brooks, Mary Oleniczak, Tammy Carter, Brandy Sly, Connie Waitner, Andrea Waitner.

c. Adoption of Agenda. Moved by Anne, seconded by Margaret, passed unanimously.

d. Adoption of Minutes. Minutes from the previous meeting were not yet available for review.

e. Financial Report. There was a question about the travel expenses for the month of April. Dan made a trip to Wash., DC on short notice and we were not able to get reasonable airfare rates. A motion was made by Jerry and seconded by Anne to accept the financial report. Passed unanimously.

f. Staff Reports. Diane and Ginger submitted written reports. Mark recommended that the Board establish a "no smoking" policy for the office. Margaret made the motion, seconded by Anne, passed unanimously.

Mark noted that Dan Bailey is now an employee of the Forest Service and according to the federal personnel policies, there are certain restrictions that affect Dan in his capacity as Chairman of Little River. He is not able to be the authorizing signator for federal grants that we might receive in the future. The Board will need to assign this authority to another board member. A motion was made by Anne and seconded by Bob to authorize Bonnie, as Vice-Chairperson, to sign for federal grants that Little River may be the recipient of in the future. Passed unanimously. Identifying a tribal liaison with the Friends of the Forest was postponed.

Mark shared with the Board the meeting he and Dan Bailey had with Richard Wilson on May 12, 1994. We offered him a computer, as the Board decided, but he never returned to get it. Bonnie explained that Richard was quite upset that we didn't give him

six computers as he had expected. Bonnie knew this because Richard's wife had confronted Bonnie over this matter at her office. Bonnie told her that she would share their concerns at our next Board meeting. Dan had subsequently met with Bruce Gockerman to find out what the other partners in Wilson's law firm understood about this problem. Mr. Gockerman knew very little about the situation and asked Dan if he would explain the circumstances in writing so that he could better understand how this matter evolved. The Board directed that Mark and Dan should prepare a letter to Bruce Gockerman which explains the chronology of events and our perspective on this misunderstanding.

Finally, we have displayed the plaque that the Band received from Custer Township and have sent Larry Crawford a letter of thanks for their willingness to involve Little River in the dedication ceremony of the historical marker. Bonnie has brought in pictures of the dedication and the clean-up at Horsehoe Bend for our files. Bob motioned to accept the staff reports and Jerry seconded, passed unanimously.

## II. Old Business

### a. Status of the Federal Acknowledgement Petition.

Mark handed out drafts of Chapters 4, 5 and 6 of the ethnohistory for the board members to review and critique. We will need to schedule a special board meeting in the near future to discuss any proposed revisions to the ethnohistorical report so that Jim McClurken can complete the report and his contractual obligations to Little River.

It was suggested that we might want to set a deadline for submission of enrollment applications so that the staff can have sufficient time to complete processing the applications. People who have not completed their paperwork or who have yet to apply might be induced to do so if a deadline is set for filing a membership application. The tribe's legislation provides that Little River has 18 months after enactment of the bill to submit a membership roll to the Secretary of the Interior. That should give us plenty of time but we need to account for the time it will take the staff to complete the files and determinations.

Bill Brooks suggested adding to the draft ordinance a provision authorizing the Enrollment Committee to make the determinations of tribal membership eligibility. The Board would then serve as the appeal board for those applicants who might object to the Committee's decision. Until we have an ordinance adopted that adequately defines these lines of authority between the Committee and the Board, it would be premature to begin sending out tribal membership cards. Let's try to have something drafted up for Board review at the next meeting. When we do send out membership cards, we need to include a letter that explains what the cards mean.

Bob brought up that we should check into bulk mail so that we could save on mailing expenses for our upcoming newsletter. Ginger is going to get the information. Bob made a motion and Margaret seconded that we should apply for bulk rate, if it is affordable. Passed unanimously. A deadline of June 15, 1994 was set for submitting articles for the newsletter.

b. Status of Federal Legislation

Mark informed the Board that on May 25, 1994 our bill passed the Senate (S. 1357). The bill passed by a procedure referred to as "unanimous consent". Frank Ettawageshik taped the floor action off C-Span and we will get a copy of it. The House bill (H.R. 2376) has not yet passed the House Natural Resources Committee. We are hopeful that a "mark-up" on our House bill will be scheduled soon.

c. Indian Village Archeological Project

Mark reported that Jim McClurken and Chuck Cleland met with Katie Glocheski and Margaret Chandler at Indian Village on May 17, 1994. Katie and Margaret prepared a map that identified the historical locations of the various homesteads. The proposal will not be due for submission until September.

d. Reservation Boundary Case

Bill Brooks passed out a memo regarding land issues. The memo also proposed that the Board consent to authorizing MILS to represent Little River in negotiating a cooperative agreement with the Grand Traverse Band (GTB). The Little Traverse Bay Bands has already authorized MILS to negotiate on their behalf. The nature of this cooperative agreement involves the sharing of information gathered by the respective band's that could be utilized for future legal purposes in defense of the respective bands' political jurisdiction. Grand Traverse presently has the means to hire several expert researchers and legal counsel to advise them on these issues. We would benefit by having access to any information they contribute to this prospective case.

Bonnie stressed the importance of our being kept closely informed of the progress of these negotiations. Bill assured the Board that all research would be shared by the band's. Bill also recommended that we request the assistance of Fran Ayer to review the research and offer an opinion on these matters. Jerry made a motion and Bob seconded to authorize MILS to negotiate a cooperative agreement with GTB that defines what information each party is obliged to share. The motion also included that we seek the assistance of Fran Ayer to review the research and offer a legal opinion on the prospective case. Passed unanimously.

### III. New Business

a. CHTI Meeting. On May 25, 1994 there was a CHTI meeting in Lansing. Jerry, Diane and Mark attended on our behalf. After the meeting they picked up more donated office equipment from the State Surplus Warehouse and hauled it back in Jerry's truck.

b. Board Representative to Sign Grants. This was already discussed and acted upon under Staff Reports.

### IV. Concluding Business

a. Next Meeting. The next Board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 1994 at 6:30 pm at the tribal office. The meeting would be followed by a Constitution Committee meeting.

b. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm by a motion made by Jerry, seconded by Bob, passed unanimously.

## II Old Business

a. Status of Federal Acknowledge Mark passed out Chapters 4, 5, 96 of book on history of Ottawa Indians. These need to be read so we can make revisions.

It was suggested to set a deadline for reaching applications for enrollment. In hopes people would call or send us enrollment information sooner than if no deadline is established. From the time the bill is passed there is an 18 month period that things need to be completed.

The ~~for~~ members don't have to have all documents in just applications so the enrollment committee can get the ball rolling. This should be voted on next meeting!

Bill suggested adding to ordinance that enrollment committee could send membership card with contact # on it to members explaining what the card is for.

This was tabled for present time, due to enrollment committee doesn't have power to decide who is or isn't eligible for membership. Therefore, next board meeting we must give the enrollment committee the boards approval to do this.

Enrollment at present time researchs and completes files to be presented to board. The board at present <sup>time</sup> decides who is eligible for membership.

Board must adopt ordinance for cards to be mailed out with cover letter.

~~10~~

It was brought up by Bob that we should check into bulk mail. Ginger was going to get rates etc. on this. Bob made motion to go ahead w/ bulk mail. Margaret 2nd all in favor. Now our newsletter can be done thru bulk mail. The 1st deadline for this is June 15, 1994. meaning anything what in letter will

not be accepted after this date. It will go in next news letter.

II B. Status of Federal legislation  
Mark talking/informed us that on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> 5-1357 passed Senate. It has now gone to the house where we are waiting for markup. Patty Marks says bill will not be voted. Requesting to have signing ceremony at White House in Rose Garden. Frank saw Senate on C-span. Mark will get a copy so we can view it. The bill ~~will~~ will be taken to Floor House on 26<sup>th</sup> of May. Thomas from Wyoming <sup>(2P)</sup> opposed bill because he feels all tubes should go thru BIA. Thomas won't vote against it when it hits the floor. Keep low key on what's going on regarding the bill. This will help keep any trouble down.

## II D. Reservation Boundary Case

Bill passed out memo regarding land issues.

Explain benefits to us, examples:

no state income tax, sales tax, business tax, no income withholding. Plus property would be acquired in Indian Country. Reservation boundaries criminal law would not be able to step in to judge crimes that Indians might commit. The 3 tribes would have more \*documentation they could put together than individual tribes. We have an advantage with the amount of home stead we have

(G.T.) <sup>Grand</sup> G. Traverse is work<sup>Long</sup> with expert attorney Richard White regarding \*jud 1860, 70's, 80's.

Bill wants our permission to set up working arrangement with G.T. this would be done by attorneys. Bill sees this as a Win/Win situation.



Jim M. needs authorization from us to share \*documentation with G.T. Bonnie wants to be sure we are well informed of events that take place. It is hard to fully trust G.T. because of past experience with them.

Bill mentioned we share research memo and research material

② authorize with G.T. what each tribe will bring (information) and share

③ Fran Air is also playing an important part in this

Jerry moved to let Bill go ahead with other attorneys and write work plan Bob Znd all in favor

## II. New Business

### a. CHTI Meeting

Bonnie thanked Di / Ginger for getting lunch and organizing the lunch donations was \$42<sup>00</sup>

Mark ~~is~~ gave a presentation at the meeting all went well

Bonnie, also thanked Di / Ginger for putting us in meetings with

elders from G.T. Everyone who went had a great time. Suggest we now invite them down to Horseshoe Bend.

IV Concluding:

A. Next Meeting

June 14<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 6:30 PM at office. This will be a board meeting followed by a Constitution meeting.

B. Adjournment

8:25 P.M. Jerry motion  
Bob 2nd all in favor