



Elders Monthly Meeting
2953 Shaw be Quo-ung Drive, Manistee, MI

Aki Maadiziwin Community Center

Annual Elders Conference - Regular Meeting

November 10, 2024

Call to Order: 10:45 AM

ROLL CALL – Quorum Present Present: 4 Absent: 1

Jessica Steinberg, Chairperson - present	Sandy Mezeske, Vice Chairperson - absent
Marcella Leusby, Secretary - present	Chuck Fisher, Trustee - present
Dianna Harris, Trustee - present	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion: Chuck Fisher **Second:** Marcella Leusby

Motion to approve the agenda. Four (4) in favor, one (1) absent; motion carried. Agenda approved.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – Motion: Chuck Fisher **Second:** Dianna Harris

Motion to approve minutes of September 7, 2024, meeting without corrections or additions. Four (4) in favor, one (1) absent, motion carried. Minutes approved.

REPORTS:

Chuck Fisher reported out that the Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) is seeking to regain 501(c)3 non-profit status; it was lost during Covid shut down. The organization has lost member tribes and having challenges maintaining participation. MIEA is seeking a sponsor for the April 2025 meeting.

Motion for LRBOI to host the MIEA executive board and delegates only meeting in April 2025, by Marcella Leusby, second Jessica Steinberg. Voice vote from floor: Ayes – majority affirmation Nays – none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to address.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Election of Officers: Chairperson Steinberg addressed concerns raised by Tribal Council Outlying Representatives, that the Elder Committee in Manistee was not representative of all the views of LRBOI Elders. To ensure that the Elders in attendance had an opportunity to vote in representation that reflected all elder groups, Chairperson Steinberg asked the group in attendance to consider electing a new chair,

and all the seats of the committee. Chairperson Steinberg wanted to address the concerns by creating opportunity for persons who had traveled to attend the conference, and were in attendance at the regular meeting, to seek nomination for representation to the committee. Chairperson Steinberg then informed the group she would entertain nominations from the floor for the Chairperson's seat, or all seats if that be the pleasure of the group.

○ **Motions from the Floor:**

Chairperson – Jessica Steinberg - Nominated by Darlene Martin, Second by Brian Gibson.

Motion to close nominations: Brian Gibson, Second by Darlene Martin. *Voice Vote: Aye*
Jessica Steinberg elected chair by ballot vote.

Vice Chairperson – Kareen Lewis – Nominated by Brian Gibson, Second by Renetta Diehlman
Sandy Mezeske – Nominated by Ron Wittenberg, Second by Alan Hardenburg

Motion to close nominations: Sharon Detz, Second by Renetta Diehlman. *Voice Vote: Aye*
Kareen Lewis elected vice chair by ballot vote.

Secretary – Marcella Leusby – Nominated by Alan Hardenburg, *Marcella Leusby declined*

Carla Romanelli – Nominated by Marcella Leusby, *Carla Romanelli declined*

Bridgette Cole – Nominated by Sharon Detz, *Bridgette Cole declined*

Brian Gibson – Nominated by Sharon Gibson, Second by Sandy Lewis

Motion to close nominations: Bridgette Cole, Second by Sandy Lewis. *Voice Vote: Aye*
Brian Gibson elected vice chair by ballot vote.

Trustee – Val McDonald – Nominated by Bridgette Cole, Second by Sharon Detz

Dianna Harris – Nominated by Roxanne Gibson, Second by Darlene Martin

Trustee – Chuck Fisher – Nominated by Alan Hardenburg, Second by Lee Iverson

Marcella Leusby – Nominated by Alan Hardenburg, Second by Alyce Giltz

Motion to close nominations: Chuck Fisher, Second by Sandy Lewis. *Voice Vote: Aye*
Dianna Harris elected trustee by ballot vote. Chuck Fisher elected trustee by ballot vote

Representative to MIEA: Alan Hardenburg – Nominated by Chuck Fisher, Second by Lee Iverson

Kareen Lewis – Nominated by Sandy Lewis, Second by Sharon Gibson

Veterans Representative to MIEA: Chuck Fisher – Nominated by Alan Hardenburg, Second by Brian Gibson

Motion to close nominations: Brian Gibson, Second by Jessica Steinberg

Alan Hardenburg and Chuck Fisher elected to represent LRBOI with the MIEA

ITEMS OF INFORMATION:

Chuck Fisher announced the MIEA Children/Student attendance award applications are out. The awards are for perfect attendance at school and are monetary distributions. Applications are available through LRBOI Education Department and the MIEA.

ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS: Report Highlights

Ogema Larry Romanelli:

- Suggests Elders Committee could host a candidates' forum for the upcoming election, 2025.
- Advised the group he is aware of discussion regarding opening enrollment and amending criteria for enrollment

Councilor Julie Wolfe

- Council is working on a dividend policy for Little River Holding, (EDC)
- Council is working on an updated Election Ordinance
- Biskaabiying Committee Ordinance amendment; change from committee to commission
- Council is working on a down-payment and closing cost support program
- Council is modifying the Members Assistance Ordinance to include Catastrophic Benefits
- Council is seeking input on the use of email blasts, and subscriptions to the Currents

Liaison Gary DiPiazza

- Advised work on Consent Decree is ongoing
- Election Board update
- Looking at implementing MailChimp for faster information sharing between Council/Members

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

Chairperson Steinberg: Set the upcoming 2025 Elder Committee Meeting Schedule. Meetings will be the first Saturday of every month beginning at noon, except for April/October due to Spring/Fall Membership meetings. There will be no meeting scheduled in July to accommodate Jiingamok attendance, no meeting in December in 2025.

NEXT MEETING: January 11, 2025

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made by Kareen Lewis, Seconded by Chuck Fisher, *Voice Vote Affirmation: Aye*
Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 PM.