



Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 49 NUMBER 9

Wild Rice update

NETT LAKE— DNR Executive Director Chris Holm reported that mature wild rice is still two to three weeks out as of Tuesday, August 26th.

"Rice kernels are chalk stage, maturing," said Holm. "The rice bed map is available on Bois Forte website (www.boisforte.com) There is a lot of bed coverage this year, with a good mix of densities."

Important reminder!

VERMILION SECTOR— This is just a friendly reminder that the Vermilion Pharmacy phone number is 218-753-2180 and fax number is 218-753-2181. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please make note of this—thank you!

Special Primary Election slated for October 28 Election will determine who replaces Perry Drift

NETT LAKE— With the unexpected resignation of District I Representative Perry Drift in early August, a special community meeting was held to figure out how they would go about filling the vacancy.

Nearly 40 people showed up in person, while another 25 or so joined online for the Tuesday, August 19th meeting. It's important to note that not everyone who attended in person or online cast a ballot.

At the outset there would be two possible outcomes—one, hold a special election for District I voters to fill the vacancy until Drift's seat expires in 2028; or two—have the current Tribal Council, which consists of Chair Carlos Hernandez, Secretary-Treasurer Tara Geshick, District I Representative Shane Drift and District II Representative Robert

Moyer, Jr., appoint a qualified band member to fill in for Perry Drift until next April's Primary Election.

The 2026 April Primary will already be a busy one for voters as Geshick's term will be up, along with Shane Drift and Robert Moyer, Jr.'s terms.

A third option surfaced during the meeting in which it was discussed to leave Perry Drift's seat open until the April Primary.

However, former Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers, who attended the meeting in person, reached out to Bois Forte band member and Minnesota Chippewa Tribe attorney Phil Brodeen for his input as the discussion unfolded. Brodeen told Chavers that leaving the seat vacant is not an option in this situation under the MCT Election Ordinance, so



MAKING A POINT— Bois Forte Tribal Chair Carlos Hernandez listens as Millie Holmes, who sits on the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Tribal Election Committee, makes a point during a recent meeting in Nett Lake. The photo below shows attendees listening to comments being made during the same meeting in which it was decided by a slim 23-22 vote to move ahead with a Special Primary Election October 28th to replace District I Representative Perry Drift, who resigned. See related story on page 2.

an earlier vote that gave band members that third option, was negated. No results were officially tallied for voting on the three options.

That left the original two options back on the table, and an official vote was taken as

See Election page 2



Election from page 1

Bois Forte Executive Assistant Regina Howe circulated in the Eagle room to pick up ballots that were handed out. Those attending online were deadlocked at 5-5, while the in-person count voted 17-16 to hold a special election by an ultra slim 23-22 vote, as opposed to having the tribal council appoint someone to fill in for Perry Drift until next year's April Primary.

"So, as you can see, your vote matters," said Hernandez once the vote was tallied.

The consensus of those who voted for the special election, which could

cost over \$80,000, was that they did not want to give up their right to vote, even if it was only to fill Perry Drift's seat till April 2026 if they appointed someone. Those who wanted the tribal council to appoint someone, felt that going that route would just be a stop gap measure and allow the council to operate at full capacity at a much sooner date than allowing a special election to take place. Not only that, but some surmised that Bois Forte band members are already experiencing "voter fatigue," and it could be amplified with the three scheduled elections next April.

A counter point made against the

appointment option was that choosing the right candidate simply by seeing if they met criteria and then answered a couple questions posed to them by the tribal council, would not be a thorough enough process in filling the vacant seat.

Under the direction of Executive Director Miranda Lilya, Bois Forte staff immediately got busy taking the necessary steps to file for a special election through the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Those interested in running for Perry Drift's seat have until 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 4th to file. To be eligible to run for office, a candidate must be 21, have no felonies and live in

the Nett Lake Sector.

The Special Primary Election for District I voters takes place October 28th if more than two people file. If there is only one candidate then that candidate would be the sole candidate on the ballot. If there are more than two candidates, the top two vote getters in the Special Primary Election would then advance to a Special General Election on December 29th. If there are more than two candidates and one of them received more than 50% of the vote in the Primary, that person would automatically serve out the remainder of Drift's term.

Drift resigns from District I seat

NETT LAKE—Roughly one month after the Bois Forte Tribal Council was back to being fully operational with five members, it once again finds itself short one member as District I Representative Perry Drift resigned Tuesday, August 12th.

Drift's resignation came a few days after he was taken into custody following a traffic stop in Duluth for a driving while under the influence charge. That news came after a couple other complaints brought forth against him for conduct displayed at council meetings and also an incident that resulted in him being banned from Fortune Bay Resort Casino after a Bone Thugs-N-Harmony concert this past April.

Drift did seek treatment for alcohol addiction following that incident, but unfortunately, he had a relapse.

An attempt to reach Drift for comment was unsuccessful, but he shared a sincere apology on his Facebook page with his constituents.

"I am stepping down from the

District I Representative seat on the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council," wrote Drift. "I stand before you all with sincere transparency and apologies for my lack of proper representation to the people of Bois Forte. This job is very important and vital to the very survival and prosperity of the band both present and future. Due to my battle with alcohol addiction, I have decided to remain positive and seek the spiritual help I need to stay on a healthy path."

Leading up to his resignation there had been a petition circulating in both the Nett Lake and Vermilion Sector to remove him from office.

According to a statement on the Bois Forte website, "On August 11, a Petition for Removal under Article X of the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe was filed with the RTC Secretary-Treasurer outlining charges for removal against Perry Drift. The RTC convened a Special Meeting on August 12, 2025, and

determined through official action that the petition satisfied the form and content requirements necessary for the petition to proceed to the next phase (assessment of sufficiency of signatures).

However, the statement continued, "in light of Perry Drift's resignation from his seat on the RTC, the RTC will not take further action on the Petition because Perry Drift is no longer a member of the RTC who is subject to the removal process."

In his social media post following his resignation, Drift wrote that he would strive for healing, reconciliation and change for the good.

"When I started this job, I had the purest and most heart worthy intentions," wrote Drift. "Along the way my inner battle with alcohol has taken a toll on me."

Drift added that he is a strong, resilient, smart, traditional and spiritually gifted man.

"This gift of language I was given shined bright for a while and it's time I start healing through my language and cultural teachings once again," wrote Drift.

Drift also had a message for the young band members who may de-

cide to seek office in the near future. He told them to hold their head high and proud and added that to be judged and criticized is a sign of respect and humility.

"A fellow council member once said to me, 'You have to let negativity flow like water over the mikinaak (turtle) shell,'" wrote Drift. "To the band members of every single generation, please do not let my actions persuade you from entrusting another future young leader. They are not me and I am not them... Thank you all for everything. Wishing only the best to the Bois Forte Nation!"

At a public meeting Tuesday, August 19th, the Bois Forte Tribal Council heard input from band members in attendance and online to see whether they wanted a special election to be held or to let the tribal council appoint a qualified band member to replace Drift. It was decided by a 23-22 vote to hold a special primary election, which takes place October 28th. If needed, the General Election will take place December 29th. Please see related story on page 1.

Attention District 1 Candidates. Please submit your letter of introduction for your candidacy to: bkanderson@fortunebay.com by Sept. 20.

Bois Forte announces Food Sovereignty Program

The Bois Forte Nutrition Education Program is entering an exciting new chapter. We are proud to announce our rebranding as the Food Sovereignty Program.

This new name reflects the growth of our work and our commitment to supporting health and wellness in a more holistic way. While nutrition education will continue to be a key part of our efforts, the Food Sovereignty Program expands beyond teaching about healthy foods — it embraces traditional knowledge, land-based learning, and community-driven approaches to food security and wellness.

The Food Sovereignty Program focuses on:

- Culturally Rooted Wellness: Reviving traditional foodways, seasonal harvesting, and Indigenous knowledge.
- Holistic Nutrition Education: Continuing to teach healthy eating while addressing mental, physical,

emotional, and spiritual balance.

- Land-Based Learning & Skill Building: Hands-on opportunities in gardening, cooking, and food preservation.

- Food Sovereignty: Building stronger local food systems and increasing access to healthy, culturally meaningful foods.

We look forward to continuing this journey with our community — creating space for intergenerational learning, building food security, and nourishing both people and traditions. Watch for updates on workshops, seasonal events, and opportunities to participate.

Program Contact:

Amber Harman, Holistic Nutrition & Food Sovereignty Manager

Bois Forte Health & Human Services

amber.harman@boisforte-nsn.gov
218-248-0148



GREAT DAY!— The 2025 Indian Summer Classic was a rousing success as 152 golfers took part in the event, which raises money for the Bois Forte Scholarship fund. Bois Forte Tribal Chair Carlos Hernandez, right, gave the opening remarks before making his way onto the course to play with the Ishkode Dispensary team. Also playing in the event were District II Representative Robert Moyer, Jr., far left and C Store Manager Jeff Mattson, second from the left. Meanwhile, CEO Susan Waukon, second from the right, did a great job greeting and networking with attendees.

m DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN,
YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Help Shape a Better Future for Minnesota's Youth

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families is looking for Qualified Individuals to conduct culturally responsive assessments for children in foster care.

We're especially looking for people with lived experience in marginalized communities, including communities of color, LGBTQIA2S+, people with disabilities, and others.

Why Apply?

- Advocate for youth and families
- Flexible schedule
- Paid assessments, free training and support
- Make a lasting impact



Learn more!

Learn more or apply:

<https://tinyurl.com/dcyfqiprogram>

Groundbreaking ceremony held for \$9 million Big Woods Transit garage

NETT LAKE—While the small village of Nett Lake will never be confused with the bright lights of a city, the groundbreaking ceremony of a new Big Woods Transit garage was another step forward to expand its transportation needs.

“The groundbreaking for the Big Woods Transit garage is more than just turning over soil; it’s about building something that will serve our generation and generations to come,” said Bois Forte Tribal Chair Carlos Hernandez to those gathered Thursday, August 28th, near the Bois Forte Food Shelf Building and current Big Woods Transit building. “Transportation is a lifeline for so many of our members. It helps our elders get to their appointments, our youth to school and other activities, and it connects families to the services and opportunities that they need.”

The \$9 million project was made possible by a grant that former Big Woods Transportation Manager Jennie Rowland

secured through the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Raise Grant Program. Not only will the new garage be able to store 14 of Big Woods’ buses, but it will also feature a meeting room, which Public Works Director Brian Whiteman said is desperately needed.

Whiteman said it’s encouraging to see Bois Forte continue to reinvest in the community.

“It’s nice to see the progress Bois Forte is making with this project, the new DNR building, our food shelf, and also the public works building up in Vermilion,” said Whiteman, who thanked staff for the hard work they have lent to this latest endeavor. “...there are some pretty good steps for services for Bois Forte, which will help us get stronger... I’m very proud of this happening for Bois Forte.”

Like Whiteman alluded to, DSGW’s Eric Wedge said the new garage will be much more than just a garage. He dis-

cussed how a new trail will be constructed from the Nett Lake Village to the building, which will be situated next to the food shelf and the current Big Woods facility. He added that the trail will follow the planned utility corridor for the new sanitary sewer and water.

“Public Works now does not have to rely on a well and septic system,” said Wedge, who thanked numerous Bois Forte staff, including Carol Burr, Jim Barto, Doris Isham, Jennie Rowland, Brian Whiteman, Dave Anderson, Tom Spears, and Toni Wakemup, for their assistance with the project to date. “It’s a very exciting time for Bois Forte— you will see the utility work happen this fall, and the construction of this beautiful building will start

next spring.”

Wedge lauded the partnerships that helped make this project a reality.

“Today is a momentous day, and it’s an honor to stand with you on these hallowed grounds as we mark the beginning of a project that will serve the community for generations to come,” said Wedge, whose firm is also working on the new DNR building. “... as Carlos said, this facility is more than just a building, it is a vital piece of infrastructure that will enhance safety, reliability, and access to essential services for the entire community.”

Hernandez said the new facility will give Big Woods Transit drivers and staff

See Groundbreaking page 8



HEAVE HO!— A groundbreaking ceremony took place Thursday, August 28th for a \$9 million-dollar new garage for Big Woods Transit. Bois Forte Project Manager Jim Barto said the building was needed for storage of the buses and new office space for employees. “This was much needed because at the moment the buses sit outside in the elements and employees share office space with public works,” said Barto. He added that the facility will also be a place to wash and maintain buses. “ I would like to note this project is two phases, first phase is bring water/ sewer from the village to big woods transit facility, and the construction of a bike/ walk path from Nett Lake the big woods transits new facility. The 2nd phase is the construction of the parking lot and the new facility starting early spring 2026. Pictured, left to right, are Ed Villebrun, Carol Burr, SRF Consulting Group Jamie Wark, Tara Geshick, Brian Whiteman, Shane Drift, Carlos Hernandez, Jennie Rowland, Jim Barto and DSGW’s Eric Wedge.

WE'RE HIRING!

FULL-TIME

MEMBER SERVICE

REPRESENTATIVE

**\$1,000
SIGN-ON
BONUS!**
(After 6 months of employment)

Nett Lake Branch

Great Benefits - Supportive Team - Room to Grow - Paid Federal Holidays

What You'll Do:

- Serve members with transactions and account support
- Assist with deposits, loans, and daily operations
- Deliver top-tier service with a smile

What We're Looking For:

- Strong communication and problem-solving skills
- A positive attitude and team player mindset
- Previous customer service or cash-handling experience is a plus

APPLY IN BRANCH!



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER - COMPETITIVE PAY - EXCELLENT BENEFITS



Drift pleased with financial meeting, but is worried about potential funding cuts

NETT LAKE— In an ongoing effort to be transparent to band members, the Bois Forte Tribal Council and members of its leadership team held a community meeting to give a financial snapshot as to how its businesses are performing.

Due to the sensitive financial data provided, only band members were permitted to attend the August 12th meeting, and no online recordings were allowed.

While financial numbers presented will not be shared, District I Representative Shane Drift said he was pleased with how the meeting played out. For Drift, it provided band members with an opportunity to review the performance of Bois Forte Development Corporation businesses, while also facilitating an open dialogue to address any concerns.

"In my humble opinion, this meeting was long overdue," said Drift after the meeting, who added that the idea was first broached to him by some band members when he was serving as Acting Chair of the

Bois Forte Tribal Council. "I asked for the Reservation Tribal Council meetings to be restructured so the tribal council holds one financial meeting update per quarter. I am still very much in favor of holding quarterly financial update meetings for band members."

Drift said that he realizes some band members do not trust the tribal council and view the financial information that's kept behind closed doors as "secrecy" or where "skullduggery" happens.

"I am happy that the tribal council approved the data privacy resolution so that the financial information could be shared openly with the band members," said Drift, who was the only council member to respond to emailed questions after the meeting. "It is good to see that the tribal council is bringing down what has been deemed 'secrecy.' I must point out that it is not secrecy, it was just data privacy."

The meeting included presentations on Fortune Bay Resort Casino, The Wil-

derness at Fortune Bay Golf Course, The Y Store, The Ledge Liquor Store, The C Store, and Ishkode Dispensary, which is Bois Forte's most recent business venture that opened in late February of this year.

"I am very concerned about Fortune Bay Resort Casino, the Wilderness, The Y Store, the Ledge, The Nett Lake C Store, and Ishkode as food and gas prices have increased, and that means less spending on other items or traveling," said Drift. "The Nett Lake C Store continues to struggle, and our casino continues to absorb the difference. Ishkode is still in its infancy stage."

Drift said he will be keeping an eye on Ishkode as the winter months approach, and the fact that there will be increased competition with more non-native dispensaries getting the green light to open. Drift added that Bois Forte can't afford to open

its own grow facility, but as he previously stated, it is an avenue worth pursuing at some point. Even so, Drift remains optimistic that once the tribe and the state finalize the cannabis compact, it will open up a host of opportunities for Bois Forte.

One thing that Drift said the tribal council cannot control is how federal funding cuts will impact the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa's ability to fund its programs. He took some verbal shots at the Trump Administration's "Big Beautiful Bill," which aims to cut federal funding by a whopping \$187 billion through the year 2034.

He cautioned that even if the state can remedy a projected deficit in the 2028-2029 budget cycle, trouble may lie ahead, as evidenced by a 10% cut to the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act. Bois Forte re-

See Financial page 7

Backpack Giveaway is a huge success!

Submitted by Chrissy Fairchild of the 477 Program

This year's Backpack Giveaway Event was a wonderful success! A total of 80 backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed to students in grades K-6, helping them start the school year prepared and supported.

The Nett Lake and Vermilion communities were both served through this event, ensuring families in each community had access to resources for a strong start to the school year.

The event was made possible through the collaboration of the 477 Program, Health and Human Services, and the Traditional Healing Grant. Together, we were excited to host this opportunity for our youth and families.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the community for showing up and participating. Your support and involvement make events like this possible, and we look forward to continuing to work together to provide for our youth in the future.



HAPPY KID!—Nett Lake Kindergarten student Celina Morrison is all smiles as she holds up a backpack she recently received. Best of luck to all the students, teachers and support staff as they kick off the 2025-26 school year!

Bois Forte Purchased/Referred Care Re-Enrollment

**WARNING
DUE DATES ARE CLOSER
THAN THEY APPEAR**

Applications will be in your mailbox soon.

Face to face appointments will be necessary this year prior to certification.

To get your PRC card before the new fiscal year starting October 1st, please have your application turned in as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristal Strong or Ellen Little.

Applications with required documents can be submitted to either location:

Nett Lake Clinic

5219 St. John Drive

Nett Lake, MN 55772

(218)757-3650

ellen.little@boisforte-nsn.gov

Vermilion Clinic

1613 Farm Road South

Tower, MN 55790

(218)753-2182

kristal.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov

Get a mammogram - Big or Small Let's Save Them All!

NETT LAKE AND VERMILION SEC-TOR— Just a reminder to make sure to sign up for your mammogram later this month at the Nett Lake and Vermilion Clinic.

Yearly mammograms are recom-mended starting at age 40 and continuing for as long as a woman is in good health.

The mammograms will take place inside the Essentia Health mobile unit, which is private and set up like a doctor's office.

The Nett Lake Clinic will host the mo-

bile unit from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. September 24th, while the Vermilion Clinic will be set up from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. September 25th and September 26th.

Costs for the mammogram are cov-ered through insurance, MDH-SAGE pro-gram, or community grants.

There will be a crewneck sweatshirt for everyone who attends as well as vari-ous giveaways. We will have drawings daily for prizes. Refreshments will be provided!

You must preregister by either calling



the Nett Clinic at 218-757-3650 or the Ver-milion Clinic by calling 218-753-2182.

The address for the Nett Lake Clinic is 5219 St. John Dr. Nett Lake, MN 55771. The address for the Vermilion Clinic is 1613 Farm Rd S., Tower, MN 55790.

NOTICE

The Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council is seeking individuals interested in serving as a member of the General Election Board, the District I Election Board (Nett Lake), and the District II Election Board (Vermilion), Urban-Duluth Election Board, and Urban-Minneapolis Election Board for the upcoming Special Tribal Election. Must sign up between **August 27, 2025 – September 10, 2025**.

The Primary Election will be held on October 28, 2025.
The General Election will be held on December 29, 2025 (Monday).

The rate of pay will be:
General Election Board Chair: \$22.00 per hour
General Election Board Members: \$18.00 per hour
District I, District II, and Urban Offices Election Boards: \$14.00 per hour

All election board members who work on election day will receive a \$250 bonus for each election day worked, which will be paid at the end of the election.

- General Election Board Members will work 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday – Friday (subject to change) and 7:00 am to approximately midnight on Election Day.
- District I, District II and Urban Election Board Members will work 7:00 am to approximately midnight on Election Day.

If you are interested, please contact:
Simona Benner, Human Resources Director
Tribal Office Phone: (218) 757-3261, ext. 1161
slbenner@boisforte-nsn.gov
8:00 am to 4:30 pm



OR SCAN THE CODE →
Those that are appointed will be subject to a pre-employment drug and alcohol test.

MCT Election Ordinance (As Amended on 12/11/2023)

Section 1.7E. No candidate for election, no member of a Candidate's immediate family, not any member of the Band governing body will be appointed to serve on any election board or as an Election Contest Judge or Alternate Election Contest Judge. The term "immediate family" as used herein will be determined by the Band governing body.

Bois Forte Tribal Government Personnel Policy Manual

Section 303. "Immediate Family" as defined by the Tribal Council is as follows:

- Spouse – Husband/Wife/Significant Other
- Parent (Mother/Father) – Biological/Adoptive/Step/Loco Parentis*/In-Laws
- Child (Daughter/Son) – Biological/Adoptive/Foster/Step/Legal Ward
- Brother/Sister – Biological/Adoptive/Step/Half/In-Laws
- Grand/Great – Parent/Child/Step

*A person who is in the position or place of a parent.



NOTICE

Candidates who are filing for the positions of
District I Representative-Term ending 2028

in the upcoming
TRIBAL SPECIAL ELECTION 2025 (DI VACANCY)

shall file a Notice of Candidacy with the
Secretary-Treasurer or her designees:

Regina Howe
Frances "Nikki" Irving

At the Bois Forte Government and Community Services
Building in Nett Lake during regular business hours.

****Filing will begin at 8:00 a.m. on August 25, 2025, and
close at 4:30 p.m. on September 4, 2025.**

****Filing fees:**
District Representative - \$15.00

Financial from page 5

ceived funding through this program to help pay off the 28,000 acres returned to the tribe a few years ago. He also lamented cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Given how precarious federal and state funding can be, Drift said he is hopeful quarterly meetings such as these can be held to keep band members in the loop on what is going on and how funding cuts could hinder Bois Forte from operating

its programs at 100% and thus the reason Bois Forte needs to be proactive in taking care of its own needs.

"I sincerely hope that the tribal council will pursue all avenues when it comes to generating revenue for the tribe," said Drift, who thanked all of the staff for their presentations and input during the meeting. "Even if this means adding an addendum to the business resolution that would allow the tribal council to pursue a business deal in a more timely manner."

If you have a news item or announcement for the Bois Forte News, please send it to: bkanderson@fortunebay.com



THANKFUL!— Lake Country Power (LCP) recently presented a rebate check for \$10,000 to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. The photo op took place in the new garage that will also house the new food shelf on the Vermilion Sector and the Head Start buses. A grand opening will be held at a future date for the garage. District I Representative Shane Drift is shown accepting the check from LCP representative Dan Cooper. Pictured, left to right, are: Kevin Strong, Drift, Jim Barto (back row), Cooper, Carol Burr, Doris Isham and Amy Mason. "We are extremely grateful for the assistance the LCP provides the tribe in our new projects and construction," said Burr, who is Bois Forte's Planning & Community Development Director. "Dan is kept abreast of the projects being built on Bois Forte and he figures out what they can provide in regard to the rebates. He will recommend the different appliances/equipment we need to install to qualify for the rebates."

You are cordially invited to the

Nett Lake Baptist church

60th Anniversary

Saturday September 27th, 2025

Open house 1-3pm

Light lunch served

Connect with friends old and new

Historical service, honoring the past 3pm.



Nett Lake Baptist church
5247 Big Point Road
Nett Lake, MN 55772

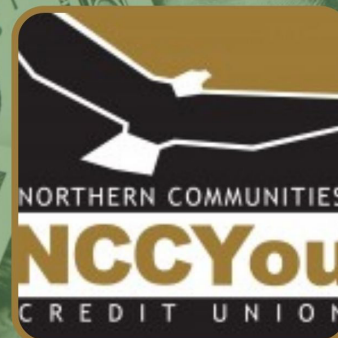
Free Financial Education Class

Account Basics and Budgeting 101
Lunch will be provided!

Nett Lake
September 16
10 am
Wolf Room

Vermilion
September 23
10 am
Social Center

Provided by:



Ganawenimaa Anishaanabeg



Bois Forte 477

Groundbreaking from page 5

the space and tools they need to provide those services safely and efficiently for Bois Forte band members. He thanked everyone who helped make this project possible, including Bois Forte's planning and community development team, its public works department, as well as our contractors and partners.

"And most importantly, our band members... whose voices guided this process," said Hernandez, who also thanked Bois Forte band member Joe Hoagland for giving a beautiful Invocation to begin the ceremony. "...this building will stand as a reminder that when we plan, work and build together, we create a lasting impact for our people."

Rowland, who got the ball rolling on the project, was touched that this day had finally come, as she had previously sought out funding for the project. She said her previous grant applications had been turned down twice, but added that the third time was the charm.

"This is an awesome opportunity for us," said Rowland, who now works in the Bois Forte Elders' Nutrition program, but was invited to the ceremony by current Big Woods Transit Manager Tom Spears. "This was a very comprehensive grant for us to apply for and ultimately get on the third attempt—I knew it was going to be our time."

As Hernandez closed the ceremony, he said that he wanted to reflect on what this project represents to Bois Forte and

its people.

"This project represents progress, unity, and service to our people," said Hernandez. "This garage will help ensure that no matter where you live, whether in Nett Lake, Vermilion, or off the reservation, you can count on reliable and safe transportation from Big Woods Transit. Thank

you for supporting this vision and for everyone's hard work in making this a reality together. Again, we're not just building a garage, we're building an opportunity for access and a stronger future for the Bois Forte band—Miigwech again."



WE ARE HIRING FOR A VARIETY OF DEPARTMENTS!

PLAYERS CLUB REP (FT & PT)

BEVERAGE SERVER

RETAIL SALES CASHIER

GRILL COOK

DROP TEAM MEMBER (FT & PT)

GRILL CASHIER

TABLE GAMES SUPERVISOR

SECURITY OFFICER

NETT LAKE STORE CASHIER

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

PLAYERS CLUB REP (PT)

STEAKHOUSE LINE COOK

ROOM ATTENDANT (FT & PT)

STEAKHOUSE HOST (FT & PT)

MARINA/RV PARK ATTENDANT (FT)

Recruiter: Rochelle Hanson
Direct Office: 218.753.7841
rochellehanson@fortunebay.com

Recruiter: Tammy Goodsky
Direct Office: 218.753.7866
tammygoodsky@fortunebay.com



GETTING READY— Bois Forte Tribal Chair Carlos Hernandez prepares to deliver his welcome at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Big Woods Transit garage.

Our apologies to Amanda Thompson!



COOKING UP ANOTHER GREAT MEAL!— Bois Forte ENP Head Cook Becky Thompson, left, and ENP Assistant Cook Amanda Thompson, were busy in the kitchen preparing lunch for elders on a recent morning in Nett Lake. The Bois Forte News apologizes to Amanda for misidentifying her in last month's paper.

ALICE training served the Bois Forte community well

VERMILION SECTOR— Given another mass shooting that took place in Minneapolis early on the morning of August 27th, the decision to bring together Bois Forte and Fortune Bay staff earlier this summer for ALICE training proved to be a timely call.

Two sessions, one in Nett Lake and one in Vermilion, on ALICE (Alert, Lock-down, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training served as an important reminder that a tragedy can happen at any time and anywhere. This played out as evidenced by the Minneapolis Catholic School shooting, in which there were 20 victims, plus three deaths, including the gunman responsible for the tragedy.

St. Louis County Sheriff Deputy Brock Kick headed up the training sessions, which were both well-attended and included a lot of healthy discussions on the "what ifs" if an active shooter ever surfaced on the Bois Forte Reservation.

"I feel the training went very well," said Kick, who works out of the Virginia Sheriff's Office.

"This was an introduction style class, and I felt it was well-received to get everyone talking about and thinking about their safety."

Bois Forte Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Teresa Isham agreed.

"The audience was very engaged and provided some great discussions on safety in the work environment," said Isham, who added that Executive Director Mi-

randa Lilya was the driving factor behind bringing the ALICE training to Bois Forte.

During the training, attendees learned that the ALICE program empowers individuals to participate in their own survival using proactive response strategies in the face of violence. The program is designed to ensure that anyone can employ the strategies taught—including young, old, male, and female—it does not matter.

"I wanted everyone to get a basic overview of the ALICE process," said Kick about what he hoped attendees would learn. "And give them ideas on how to protect themselves, co-workers, and community members from an intruder. I wanted everyone to start a conversation on how to improve their community and workplace to make it as safe as possible while being able to conduct business as usual."

For Isham, she was happy to report that she participated in an "ALICE Certified Instructor" course and is now certified to teach the ALICE course. She said she plans to offer the training to all departments within Bois Forte, as there is not a one-size-fits-all course of action when dealing with an active shooter.

"These trainings will be more in-depth and provide hands-on skills in Violent Critical Incidents (VCI)," said Isham.

When asked what the top things were that she wanted attendees to take away from the class, Isham said she

wanted them to understand that they are responsible for their own survival in a VCI situation. She also wanted them to hone in on their situational awareness skills.

"Meaning, be aware of their environment," explained Isham. "Where are the evacuation routes? How would you barricade your doors? What could you use to distract the intruder?"

In Isham's eyes—action will always beat reaction.

"Which means, chances of surviving a VCI highly increase when you take action rather than reacting by hiding," concluded Isham.

Kick added that he felt everyone who took part in the ALICE training is very passionate about making the community and its residents and staff safer.

"(I believe) they are going to continually look for ways to improve," said Kick, of attendees staying vigilant in looking for key indicators in case a tragedy unfolds. "I also wanted to say that I am very proud of the community leaders and all who attended the ALICE training. The community is strong and is seeking ways to serve all its members better. The class went very well, and I am honored to have had the chance to teach with all of you."

Here is the Elder Nutrition Program's menu for the month of September. Services offered include nutritious meals served daily, Monday through Friday at the Nett Lake and Vermilion Community Centers from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with home-delivered meals available to Elders who are unable to get to the ENP sites.

- Sept. 1:** Bison/Beef Chili, Corn Bread
- Sept. 2:** Grilled Chicken Breast, Yellow Rice, Sliced Zucchini
- Sept. 3:** Sausage Jambalya, Cheddar Biscuit
- Sept. 4:** Chicken Penne Alfredo, Broccoli
- Sept. 5:** Split Pea Soup, Country Ham
- Sept. 8:** Honey Glazed Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Squash Medley
- Sept. 9:** Beef Frito Pie with Corn Chips, Whole Kernel Corn, Tossed Salad
- Sept. 10:** Wild Rice Meatballs, Sweet Potato Fries, Chef's Choice of Fruit
- Sept. 11:** Breakfast Hotdish, Potato Wedges or Tots, Muffin
- Sept. 12:** BBQ Pork Riblette, AuGratin Potatoes, Broccoli Slaw
- Sept. 15:** Pulled Pork, Macaroni & Cheese, Coleslaw
- Sept. 16:** Spaghetti & Meatballs, Garlic Bread, Green Beans
- Sept. 17:** Roast Beef, Garlic Mashed

September 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

Potatoes, Roasted Root Vegetables, Garden Salad

Sept. 18: Stir Fry Chicken/egg roll, Stir Fry Vegetables, Steamed Brown Rice

Sept. 19: Beef/Bison Stew, 7-Grain Bun

Sept. 22: Chicken Pot Pie, Biscuit, Steamed Broccoli

Sept. 23: Roast Pork, Baby Bakers Potatoes, Roasted Butternut Squash

Sept. 24: Tuna or Chicken Pasta Salad, Capri Vegetable Blend, Corn Muffin

Sept. 25: Chicken Wild Rice Soup or Hotdish, Garden Salad/Cole Slaw

Sept. 26: Bison/Beef Meatloaf Baked Sweet Potato, Brussel Sprouts

Sept. 29: Garden Vegetable Soup, Chicken Salad Croissant

Sept. 30: Philly Steak & Cheese Bun, Tator Tots, Creamy Cucumber Salad



READY TO TRAIN— St. Louis County Sheriff Deputy Brock Kick, left, and Bois Forte Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Teresa Isham, right, pose for a quick photo before Kick put on an ALICE training session that took place earlier this summer in The Woodlands Ballroom.

Marie Ann Snowflake Fairbanks

Marie Ann Snowflake Fairbanks, 24, passed away on Tuesday, August 19, 2025. She was born in Duluth, MN on November 11, 2000, to Feather Marie Thompson and Glenn Leroy Fairbanks.

Snowflake loved taking walks and loved being in the wilderness. She enjoyed playing cards and games and was a Green Bay Packers fan. She enjoyed listening to music, drawing, painting, and origami. She loved driving cars (and golf carts) and going for rides with her family and friends. Snowflake was a very loving and

passionate person. She loved her nieces and nephews and cared about everyone. She was a giving person and would share whatever she had. She loved being silly and had the best laugh.

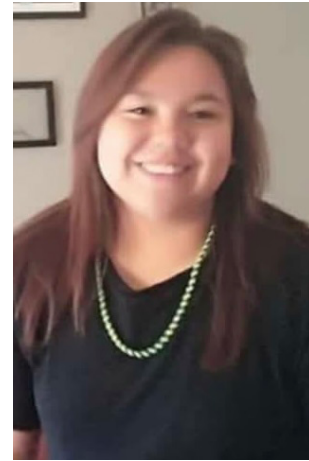
Snowflake is preceded in death by her father Glenn Leroy Fairbanks; and grandparents: Alberta Agnes Martin Fairbanks, Keith W. Lowmaster Sr., Leonard Thompson, Myra Thompson; great grandparents Ray Drift and Jessi Drift; Aunts and Uncles: Makoons Webster, Shawna Marie Fairbanks, Janet Thompson,

Leonard Thompson, Lois Thompson, and Curtis Thompson.

Snowflake is survived by her Mother Feather Marie Kelder, and stepfather Darren Kelder; grandparents: Murial Thompson and Charles Goggleye Jr.; step grandmother Jody Bigboy Lowmaster; sister Nazharay Rose White; brothers: Keith Micheal Lowmaster Aubid and Sapatise Makooze Cloud Fairbanks; Aunts and Uncles: Franklin Lussier, Steven Lussier, Mitchell Lussier, Debbie Kay White, Ronald James Fairbanks, Ricardo Wade Benja-

min Fairbanks, Johnny Fairbanks, Michelle Lussier, Allen Theodore Goggleye, Charles Dawanye Goggleye III, Ashley Ann Goggleye, Ray Thompson and Becky Thompson; and many other uncles, aunties, nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Traditional Wake was held on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center. The Traditional Service was held the next day, Wednesday, August 27, 2025, also at the Center. Condolences to www.mlakerfuneralhome.com



Minute with Millie

Last Week In July's Sojourn Across Minnesota Down To Des Moines, Iowa For The 2025 Senior Games Was Fantastic. I Traveled With My Sister And Her Friend. We Arrived On Friday Afternoon And They Checked In At The Arena For Their Package- And Maps Where They Needed To Go.

They Hurried Over To The Practice Games Scheduled For Minutes After Our Arrival. The Place Was Packed And I Watched Them Get Their Bowling Shoes And A House Ball.

Why Did I Mention This? Cause As We Were Soon To Discover, People Do Not Use Just One Bowling Ball Or House Shoes Anymore. Part Of The Reason For The Fullness Was The Number Of Bags Which I Thought Were Their Suitcases Full Of Clothes Which They'd Brought In For Some Strange Reason. Nah. They Contained A Minimum Of Four Balls Up To Around Six.

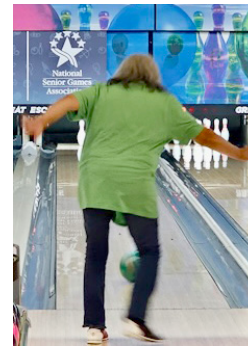
This We Discovered Their First Day In The Women's Doubles Match On Wednesday. We Discovered They'd Not Been Entered Into The Singles Matches Scheduled For Monday. So Three Days Of R&R For Us Back At The Hotel, Well... Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel In Tama, Iowa.

Wednesday Morning Dawned Bright And Early As We Made Our Way To Breakfast Before Their Match Up In Des Moines, An Hour Later. This Is When We Found Out The Reason For The Duffel Bags And Extraneous Balls, The Two Levels Of Bowling Ball Storage In-Between Frames.

Apparently, One Needs A Ball For The Different Splits: 7-10, 6-9-10 Etc, One For When The Lane Is Oily, And One For When Your Arm Gets Tired. They Finished Up Their Requisite Three Games And We Traveled Back To The Casino Since Sis Didn't Have To Practice For The Mixed Doubles That Afternoon.

Thursday Morning Dawned On A Day Of Discoveries For All Of Us And Ended On A Night Of Despair. So To Speak.

First, We Went To A Different Bowling Alley For The Mixed Doubles: Where



The Men Bowled Their Games. A Total World Of Difference: A Modern Set Up For Bowlers. Well-Lit Lanes, An Automatic Lane Cleaner-Like One Of Those Robo Vacuums Found In Some Homes These Days.

24 Lanes Of Double Shelves For The 4-6 Balls Of 96 Bowlers.

Course, My Sister Couldn't Be Outdone. Or Rather, She Felt Compelled To Have At Least Two Balls Whilst Bowling Like The Rest Of The Crowd. She Grabbed Not One But Two, Two Mind You, Of The Sadly Neglected House Balls To Use On Her Turn For Bowling.

Well, They Bowled, Each Of Them Very Competitive In Their Own Right, Sis And School Classmate. The Day Ended With Each Of Them Not Quite Up To Their Usual Game Score.

We Journeyed Back To Tama Whilst Waiting For The Final Friday Round List To Be Announced. We Stopped For Supper On Our Way Back For A Meal Of All The Competitors Who'd Left From Minneapolis. We Found One Who Took Third Place In Shuffleboard. Yay!

Then, The Waiting Became Too Much For One Who Didn't Know How To Check For The List On His Phone. He'd Tried To Tell Me How His Friend Did It. I Searched And Searched. Nah. He Talked Sister Into Driving All The Way Back To Des Moines To Look At The List In The Bowling Alley.

Despair Blossomed In Their Competitive Little Hearts. They Were 30th Out Of 34 Teams.

We Happily Ate Breakfast, Looked At A Garage Sale Before Trying To Find The Indian Owned Restaurant In Town. It Was Closed.

We Made It Back To Minneapolis Whilst It Was Still Daylight Out. Well, You Might Be Wondering Why I Wrote This Long And Rambling Article. Well... Back In Minneapolis A Few Days Later, Our Trusty Classmate Up And Took Sister Out To Buy Her A New Bowling Ball And Shoes So She Wouldn't Have To Be The Only One To Grab House Balls At The Next Senior Games.

Bois Forte Tribal Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a Special meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held June 10, 2025, at Nett Lake, RTG-Eagle Room, Minnesota-Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 9:07 a.m.

Moment of silence for invocation.

Members Present: Shane Drift, Tara Geshick, Perry Drift, Robert Moyer, Jr.

Shane Drift chairs meeting in absence of Chair.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Miranda Lilya, Frances Irving, Regina Howe, Marissa Mason, Robbie Goggleye, Dan Rabideaux, Vondalee Carr, Kim Greiner, Cory King, Jeneal Goggleye, Vanessa Little, Ashley Goodsky, Brian Whiteman, Jim Barto, Carol Burr, Doris Isham, Jamie Burdick, Cathy Chavers, Donna Hoffer.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the agenda with the addition of the censure of Dist. I Representative, Perry Drift by Tara Geshick and Perry Drift's action.

Carried 3-0-0

Discussion on minutes from May 22, 2025. Update from Brian Whiteman regarding speed limit signs. Indicates that a letter is needed. Robert requests that a meeting in Vermilion be held for Vermilion residents for their input. Brian will proceed with Nett Lake.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve RTC meeting minutes from Special Meeting held, May 22, 2025.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

a) St of MN Joint powers agreement to assist in Gooseberry Falls 3-0-0

b) St of MN Annual Plan agreement MIAC Qtrly Mtg 6/5/25 to pay spiritual advisor and drum group 3-0-0

c) Appointment of Roxanne Goggleye as alternate on the Board of Directors for Wisdom Steps 3-0-0

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the use of band logo in IRRR resources, Annual Resource Guide, Bi-Weekly publication of the Ranger, and special events hosted by IRRR that includes representation of the band.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the contract with ArchKey/Town & Country for housing roof replacement project.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Amendment #7 FY 20-2022 multi-year funding agreement

with US DOI for self-governance to retain MFA for FY 2025.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Amendment #8 FY 2020-2022 multi-year funding agreement with US DOI to the BIA self-governance annual funding agreement to modify 105(l) leases.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the FY 2025 budget.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the Employee Reimbursement Policy.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the Cash Handling Policy for RTC events for ceremonial contributors.

Carried 3-0-0

Recess at 9:53am

Reconvene at 9:57am

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to censure District I Representative, Perry Drift, for the following actions:

- On May 22, 2025, during a public RTC meeting, District 1 Representative Perry Drift engaged in disruptive behavior and dereliction of duties by raising his voice and interrupting presenters, all causing a threatening and intimidating environment for Council members, staff, and Band members attending the meeting.

- On May 27, 2025, during an informal meeting with the RTC and in response to RTC Secretary/Treasurer Tara Geshick informing him that she planned to bring a second censure motion for his conduct during the RTC meeting, District 1 Representative Perry Drift raised his voice and made badgering and insulting comments to RTC Secretary/Treasurer Tara Geshick, restricting her from speaking and creating a threatening and hostile work environment.

These actions have further eroded public trust in the Tribal Council, damaged the reputation of the Tribal Council and the Bois Forte Band, undermined tribal traditions and values, and inflicted fear among Bois Forte staff and elected leaders.

Through this censure, the RTC requests that District 1 Representative Perry Drift (1) not leave meetings, stay on task, and control his conduct so that the Council can conduct business; (2) issue a public apology for his behavior at the May 22, 2025, RTC meeting; and (3) issue an apology at the next RTC weekly update meeting to Secretary/Treasurer Tara Geshick, fellow RTC members, and Bois Forte staff. The censure shall be posted in public places on the Bois Forte

Reservation and on the Tribal Government's official social media outlets.

Carried 2-1-0, Perry Drift opposed.

Perry Drift presents documents to Shane Drift to forward to TEC, ethical violations and potential article X of a sitting RTC member.

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to adjourn at 10:05 a.m.

Carried 3-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving

Approved at Special RTC Meeting: August 6, 2025

Minutes of a Regular meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held July 2, 2025, at Nett Lake, RTG-Eagle Room, Minnesota-Hybrid.

Prior to meeting start of the meeting, Carlos A. Hernandez is sworn in as the new elect Chairman.

Meeting called to order at 9:07 a.m.

Invocation done by Vern Adams.

Members Present: Carlos Hernandez, Tara Geshick, Shane Drift, Perry Drift, Robert Moyer, Jr.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: See attached sign in for in-person and virtual attendees.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve the agenda with the addition of a request from Shane Drift to address a couple items from meeting minutes from June 10, 2025 and the Lance Hill-New rec lease for Carol Burr.

Carried 4-0-0

Discussion on meeting minutes from June 10, 2025, as they are not ready yet. Shane brings up that Perry Drift submitted complaints under Article X of the MCT Constitution. The complaints are regarding dereliction of duty and malfeasance on Secretary Treasurer, Tara Geshick. Shane did meet with MCT Executive Director, Luke Warnholz and also sent an email to MCT TEC officers requesting that these complaints be added to the TEC meeting in Grand Portage July 14, 2025. Under MCT Constitution only an MCT TEC member can file a complaint on another MCT TEC member. So he is turning the documents over to Chairman, Carlos Hernandez to bring to the TEC. Shane brings up that at the last meeting Tribal Council approved the FY 2025 budget. Shane believes that the funding of 5.7 million dollars was supposed to be used for any cuts coming down from the Trump administration or the state and believes that this funding was not used for those cuts and used for a mistake in his opinion.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to table RTC meeting minutes from Special Meeting held, June 10, 2025 due to not being ready.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

a) Resolution No. 101-2025, Exclusion/Forbidden-Jeffery Allen Bingham 3-0-0

b) Potable Water Trailer Usage & Rental Policy 3-0-0

c) Approval CMS 588 form for EFT Authorization for Medicare Part B billing 3-0-0

d) Authorizing video footage release for Tribal Ethics Committee hearing 3-0-0

e) Approval for Amy Mason, Energy Director, to participate in the Tribal Council on energy & Industrial Transformation (MITI) Project 3-0-0

f) Permission to post state from band to the Timberjay RE: Traffic enforcement around the intersection of Hwy 169 & County Road 77 3-0-0

g) Contract with DSGW-Master Agreement-Amendment 1 for Big Woods Facility 3-0-0

h) State of MN Joint Powers Agreement-WIC Program-Farmers Market Nutrition Program Coupons 3-0-0

i) Authorization for chair to sign SFIA certification 3-0-0

j) Resolution No. 103-2025, approving bands application for the Safe Streets for All implementation grant 3-0-0

k) Sole source to Tribal First in the amount of \$166,333 for renewal of property insurance 3-0-0

Carried 3-0-0

Amy Mason introduces Deanna Geelhoed & Seth Spencer, Extension Education (UMN) with and introduction of Northland Climate Resilience Collaborative (NOAA Project) Grant sub-award recipient.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 1-2026, Tower lease agreement and Memorandum of Lease agreement with Verizon for cellular tower on water tower in Nett Lake.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 2-2026, Lease modification for Marlys Carlson recreation lease.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 14-2026, Recreation lease for Carol Burr.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve sole source request to Regroup for renewal of instant notification platform.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the HUD CoC grant agreement for FY 2025.

See Minutes page 11

Minutes from page 11

Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve the Data sharing of HUD CoC HMIS data with ST. Louis County.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the Cost Neutral transfer program agreement with St. Louis County.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the date sharing agreement and letter of support to the YouthPrise direct cash transfer program.
Carried 4-0-0
Donna Hoffer bring forward a discussion on the Virginia property. Concerns raised by community member Donna Hoffer: Lack of public input on property acquisition and expansion. Whether it violates Resolution #66-2019 (requiring public notice for major business decisions).
• HHS CEO Dan Rabideaux clarified:
• Property is for expanding existing health services.
• Funded through grants and third-party billing.
• Not considered a new business venture.
• Chairman Hernandez committed to transparency and a follow-up report within a month.
Pam Parson gives a compliance update.
Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve MN North to utilize space for ITV services at tribal government building in Nett Lake & Vermilion to hold addiction studies classes.
Carried 4-0-0
Recess at 11:10am
Reconvene at 11:23am
Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 3-2026, appointment of Carlos Hernandez, Chairperson as successor trustee of the Tribal Government 401K plan effective June 27, 2025.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 4-2026, Changing Embarrass-Vermilion Federal Credit Union signatories for Fortune Bay Resort Casino accounts.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve Resolution No. 5-2026, Changing Park State Bank signatories for the Bois Forte Cannabis Corporation accounts.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve Resolution No. 6-2026, Changing B2 Bank, N.A. signatories for Fortune Bay Resort Casino accounts.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert

Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 7-2026, Changing Northern State Bank of Ashland signatories for Fortune Bay Resort Casino accounts.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve Resolution No. 8-2026, Changing Park State Bank signatories for Fortune Bay Resort Casino Accounts.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve Resolution No. 9-2026, changing signatories for bank accounts under the name of Bois Forte Band of Chippewa or the Bois Forte Tribal Government.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve the renewal of the MNSure Navigator contract.
Carried 4-0-0
Discussion on previous meeting request for a financial meeting for band members. Address data privacy and what information can be released. Executive assistants will look at some potential dates.
District I Representative, Perry Drift moved to rescind his approval of FY25 Budget that was approved June 10, 2025, stating missing key information and found out after approved. Council decided to defer the action until more information is gathered.
Chris Holm gives an update on the Wild Rice. Reports that rice is developing slower than usual but within expected range. Concerns about sparse growth noted. Weekly and Biweekly updates planned.
Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to adjourn at 1:46 p.m.
Carried 3-0-0
Prepared by: Frances Irving
Approved at Special RTC Meeting: August 6, 2025

Minutes of a Special meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation

Tribal Council held July 16, 2025, at Nett Lake, RTG-Eagle Room, Minnesota-Hybrid.
Meeting called to order at 9:04 a.m.
Invocation done by Vern Adams.
Members Present: Carlos Hernandez, Tara Geshick, Shane Drift, Perry Drift, Robert Moyer, Jr.
Members Absent: None
Others Present: See attached sign in for in-person and virtual attendees.
Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick to approve the agenda with the following additions: Shane Drift with a discussion on restructuring of RTC meetings and a discussion on budget and Perry Drift with a complaint on sitting RTC member.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to table RTC meeting minutes from Special Meeting held, June 10, 2025 and Regular Meeting held, July 2, 2025 until further review.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the consent agenda as follows:
a) Purchase of 4 EV charging stations from ZEF Energy 3-0-0
b) Amendment no. 1 to contract for SS4A changing contract end date from 6/30/25-6/30/26 3-0-0
c) Amendment no. 2 to MDE JPA-curricular resources to support indigenous education for all 3-0-0
d) 4th amendment to Saydee Whitebird contract for Cannabis Regulatory commission director 3-0-0
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the Tribal Opioid settlement participation form and authorization for chair to sign.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the purchase of

two transit vans from AVAN mobility.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve Resolution No. 15-2026, approving the submission of a grant application for the SEDS program.
Carried 4-0-0
District I Representative, Shane Drift proposes a restructuring of the RTC meetings to include quarterly financial updates for band members. Discussion on what can be done with the Data Privacy Ordinance. A suggestion was made by Miranda Lilya to add at the Regular RTC meetings, which are quarterly, a standing agenda item for financial updates. Some things to decide: What financial data to disclose and whether a resolution is needed to support that disclosure.
Recess is taken at 10:16 a.m.
Reconvene at 10:28 a.m.
District I Representative, Perry Drift reads a complaint he submitted to, at the time (June 10, 2025), Vice-Chairperson filed against Secretary-Treasurer, Tara Geshick on the basis of Article X, Section 2 of the MCT Constitution. Alleging: Failure to provide quarterly financial updates and annual audits. \$5.7M budget shortfall and mismanagement of tribal funds. Delay in 2022 audit affecting program funding and lack of transparency and accountability in financial matters. Response by Chair Carlos Hernandez was to decline to forward the complaint to the TEC due to insufficient documentation and is giving Perry 30 days to submit supporting evidence. At a time during this discussion Shane leaves the meeting at 10:58 a.m. and returns 11:01 a.m.
Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Shane Drift; to adjourn at 11:11 a.m.
Carried 4-0-0
Prepared by: Frances Irving
Approved at Special RTC Meeting: August 6, 2025

Now

HIRING

Bois Forte always has job openings, so make sure to check out the Bois Forte website!

Position	Department	Location	Closes	Classification	Starting Pay
Laboratory Technician	Health & Human Services	NL & VM	9/5/2025	Full-Time	17.02
Substance Use Disorder Counselor	Health & Human Services	Nett Lake	9/5/2025	Full-Time	52,137.57
License Practical Nurse	Health & Human Services	NL & VM	9/15/2025	Full-Time	19.13
Indian Child Welfare Specialist	Health & Human Services	Nett Lake	9/19/2025	Full-Time	15.15/16.06
Dentist	Health & Human Services	NL & VM	9/22/2025	Full-Time	153,403.14
Receptionist	Maintenance	Vermilion	9/30/2025	On-Call	12.72
Early Childhood Program Teacher Substitute	477 Program/ Early Childhood Programs	NL or VM	11/3/2025	On-Call	12.00
Bus Driver	Public Works/Transit	Nett Lake	Until Filled	On-Call, Part-time, Full-time	16.50/17.25- CDL

