



Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 50 NUMBER 3

Important note!

Due to the March 31st primary election, the April Bois Forte News will not go to press until Thursday, April 2nd. The paper will be distributed locally on Friday, April 3rd, but will not be received in the mail until the first full week of the month.

Offices closed!

Please note that all government offices, including the clinics, will be closed for the election on Tuesday, March 31st for the election. The offices will also be closed at noon on Good Friday, April 3rd and all day on Monday, April 6th. Thank you!

Make sure to get out and vote March 31st! Candidate forums scheduled for March 11th and 12th

NETT LAKE/VERMILION SECTOR— Voters will get an up close and personal look at candidates vying to earn a seat on the Bois Forte Tribal Council later this month as

two public forums have been set up.

The first public forum takes place Wednesday, March 11th at 5 p.m. at the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal

Government Building in Nett Lake, followed by the second forum the following evening at the Reservation Tribal Government Building in the Vermilion Sector. This forum also begins at 5 p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. each evening.

As was the case the last time public forums were held, candidates will be given an opportunity for a three-minute opening and closing statement; along with answering random questions posed from attendees. Those questions will not be revealed ahead of time but could include asking candidates their thoughts on issues such as blood quantum; transparency in tribal government, job creation for band members and how the tribe can thrive for the next seven generations.

“I strongly encourage all Bois Forte Band Members to attend the upcoming Candidate Forums hosted by the Native Governance Center,” said Bois Forte Executive Director Miranda Lilya, who added that band members may participate in person or virtually. “These forums are an important opportunity to hear directly from each candidate, understand their platforms, and learn how they plan to serve our Band as Tribal Council Representatives.”

Facing off in District II is

incumbent Shane Drift, who is seeking his third term, and challenger Millie Holmes. Because there are only two candidates in this race, there will not be a need for a primary as both will advance to the general election in June. We apologize for the error in last month’s Bois Forte News indicating they would participate in the primary election. Both of these candidates will write a guest column in the May issue leading up to the June 9th general election.

Meanwhile, Secretary-Treasurer Tara Geshick, who is in her first term, will be facing challenges from former District II Representative Peter “Chief” Boney, Carol Burr, Jeff Mattson and Dave Morrison, Sr., who held the seat for 32 years. Each candidate was given a chance to write a column to provide our readers an idea of who they are and what they’d like to accomplish should they ultimately earn a seat on the tribal council. Those columns can be found on page 3, 4 and 5.

In the other race, three candidates are vying for the District II seat, including incumbent Robert Moyer, Jr, who is in his first term, and challengers Alanna Drift and Tim O’Leary. Their columns begin on page 6 and continue to page 7.

See Election on page 12

Every dollar counts when it comes to our kids!



MUCH APPRECIATED!— The Vermilion Boys and Girls Club was bestowed with an unexpected gift from Fortune Bay’s Promotions and Players Club Manager Elise Grabowski, who donated \$450 to the club. Grabowski had won the money, but wanted to give it away instead of keeping it for herself. “I am having the kids work on a thank you card for Elise’s generosity,” said Vermilion Branch Director Jessi Lambert, who is pictured with Dani Hough, left, and William Isham, right. “We really appreciate her gift to our club.”

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CAMBRIDGE, MN
PERMIT #92

Bois Forte band members help power Mesabi Metallics’ “Green” future

Submitted by: Vonda Carr, Bois Forte 477 Director

NASHWAUK—As Mesabi Metallics prepares to open its long-anticipated “green” mine in Nashwauk, several Bois Forte Band members are playing a key role in bringing the project to life — working long hours across a variety of skilled trades to help ready the site for operation.

“Mesabi Metallics mine is the first new mine in 50 years,” said former Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers, who works with Mesabi Metallics as its tribal relations liaison. “It is utilizing the more recent technology to produce iron ore pellets. It is the green steel concept.”

Chavers added that the process utilizes an electric process with no water discharge which is a different process that today’s mines utilize.

“It also limits the carbon emissions to the air as well,” said Chavers, who has been with the company for a year. “Mesabi Metallics is the new way of mining with its use of technology and being environmentally conscious.”

During a recent visit to the facility, band members shared their pride in contributing to a project that emphasizes innovative practices and efficient resource management aimed at minimizing environmental impact.

For some, the path to the trades began at home. One worker credited his father for inspiring his interest in skilled labor, passing down both knowledge and a strong work ethic. Another expressed gratitude to the Bois Forte TERO Program for helping spark his career in the trades and opening doors to opportunity.

The workers also highlighted the



TALENTED CREW!—Pictured left to right: Richard O’Shea, Logan Hoopman, Cathy Chavers, Mesabi Metallics Tribal Outreach & Community Engagement, Matthew Whiteman, Craig Gilbert, and 477 Director Vonda Carr.

value of union membership, noting the stability and security it provides. Benefits such as a strong pension, quality health insurance, and competitive wages were cited as important factors supporting their families and long-term goals.

As Mesabi Metallics moves closer to becoming operational, the presence

of Bois Forte Band members on-site reflects both community involvement and economic opportunity. Their work today is helping lay the foundation for the mine’s future.

More information about Mesabi Metallics and career opportunities is available at www.mesabimetallics.com

Bois Forte News Briefs

Meetings slated to discuss microgrids at Community Lifeline Facilities

VERMILION SECTOR/NETT LAKE VILLAGE—Come learn about microgrids and share your thoughts on emergency shelter and service needs as they tie to extended power outages.

“Your input will be used to develop community proposals for microgrid projects in both the Vermilion and Nett Lake sectors,” said Bois Forte Energy Director Amy Mason. “Final proposals chosen in the fall of 2026 will be turned into feasibility reports and used to support future grant work for our community lifeline facilities.”

The meetings will take place at the following locations:

- Vermilion Community Center—Wednesday, March 18, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Nett Lake Eagle Room —Thursday, March 19, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Mason said this work is made possible through our Minnesota Department

of Commerce grant award, Microgrids at Community Lifeline Facilities, and support from Northspan through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Tribal Technical Assistance Program.

EV charging stations available at the Y Store and Fortune Bay!

VERMILION SECTOR—Know somebody with an electric vehicle? Charging stations are now accessible at the Y Store and at Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

“We will have a news story in an upcoming issue of the Bois Forte News on our chargers and to recognize everyone who helped make the projects a success,” said Bois Forte Energy Director Amy Mason.

Mason said that each charging station is capable of charging two cars at one time due to their dual port design. Payments are made by scanning the QR code on the charging station and downloading the ZEFNET Charge App from their iPhone or Android phone.

Bois Forte Tribal Court is looking for the following individuals:

Defendant	DOB
Adams, Michael Lorne	05/08/1974
Buckanaga, Christopher Charles	06/26/1969
Burns, Riley William	08/25/1995
Butcher, Ryan Allen James	07/29/1986
Deegan, Peter James	08/21/1977
Drift, Mark Edward Jr.	10/10/1995
Goggleye, Charles Victor III.	12/29/1980
Goggleye, Michael Lance	01/03/1980

If your name is on this list, you have an active warrant for your arrest by our Court. Please contact the Tribal Court to get your criminal matter addressed. Failure to do so could result in your arrest. If you are reading this and know someone on this list, help them to get the information.

Bois Forte Tribal Court now inputs ac-

Defendant	DOB
Guenther Jr., Loren Bruce	10/23/1995
Hughes, Dustin James Lee	06/16/1990
Isham, John Edward Sr.	04/24/1976
Jenkins, Robert Wayne	06/20/1960
Johnson, Robert Gerald Jr.	01/22/1996
Lightfeather, Gewedinodin	02/23/1985
Littlewolf, Toni Lynn	01/21/1972
Nelson, Thomas Jr.	06/07/1990

tive warrants into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system.

To address your warrant, call the Tribal Court during business hours Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30 at 218-757-3462 and request to be placed on the docket to address your court matters.

Geshick hopes to earn a second term as your secretary-treasurer

Building a Stronger Financial Future for Bois Forte

In recent years, our Band has taken bold steps to strengthen fiscal accountability, modernize operations, and invest in our future. I'm proud of our progress and the foundation we're building for the next generation.

Modernizing Our Financial Systems

In March 2026, Bois Forte launched Tyler Technologies accounting software, replacing our outdated AS400 platform from 1988. Our HR system also went live in January 2026, marking another leap in efficiency.

This transition represents more than a software update. It delivers:

- Digital document and data management
- Customized workflows and efficiency
- Customer-driven self-service
- Improved accuracy and reduced errors
- Streamlined HR and payroll processes
- Lower manual workload

For the first time in decades, Bois Forte operates on a modern financial platform designed for compliance, transparency, and long-term accountability.

Restoring Audit Stability



Tara Geshick

When I took office, past-due audits dated back to 2018. We've now completed audits from 2018–2022 and are on track to be fully caught up by the end of 2026. Structured audit timelines and stability plans are in place, and key staff have completed advanced audit training. Accountability is now part of our system.

Expanding Federal 105(I) Leasing

One major financial advancement has been expanding the federal 105(I) Leasing program, which brings funding for BIA and IHS building spaces. In 2022, Bois Forte had 3 buildings in the program; today, we have 21. We've also submitted additional IHS and BIA buildings, with more in preparation. This expansion brings sustained funding to support our Nation's facilities and sovereignty.

Securing Contract Support Cost (CSC) Settlements

We successfully settled the IHS Contract Support Cost (CSC) litigation for 2017 and 2018, securing \$1.2 million plus interest in February 2026. CSC across programs has been fully maximized to ensure Bois Forte receives every eligible dollar.

Building Reserves for the First Time

For the first time in our history, Bois Forte has built meaningful re-

serves. Strategic investing at a medium risk level has grown our reserves to \$2.5 million—a historic shift toward long-term stability.

Infrastructure & Economic Development

Several major projects have begun or been completed under current and continuing council leadership, including: DNR Building, Big Woods development, community walking paths, expansion of water and sewer infrastructure, maintenance building and food shelf in Vermilion, opening of Ishkode Cannabis in February 2025 in Vermilion, exploration of a cannabis growing facility. These projects represent economic growth, infrastructure investment, and forward-thinking development.

Protecting Language & Governance

We passed Resolution #85-2024 declaring a Tribal Emergency for Anishinaabemowin, calling for urgent action and \$500,000 in seed funds for a cultural program. Resolution #10-2025 further protects Band funds, requiring the Secretary Treasurer to investigate financial violations and report directly to RTC. All meeting minutes are now publicly posted, enhancing transparency.

Investing in Leadership & Knowledge

We launched the first council member trainings in 2022, covering MCT and Bois Forte governance. Bois

Forte participated in the Nation Rebuilding & Financial Leadership Cohort #1 (resulting in a \$50,000 grant for software upgrades), completed the Elected Leaders Learning Cohort #1, and finished the 2025 Intermediate Tribal Finance & Accounting Program—strengthening expertise in compliance, gaming, grants, and fiduciary responsibility. Leadership growth strengthens the entire nation.

A Record of Results

- Modern financial systems
 - Completed and stabilized audits
 - Expanded federal leasing
 - Secured \$1.2M+ CSC settlement
 - Built \$2.5M in reserves
 - Increased transparency
 - Invested in infrastructure
 - Protected language and governance
 - Strengthened financial expertise
- This work reflects accountability and a commitment to protecting Band resources for future generations. On March 31, 2026, I respectfully ask for your vote in the primary. Together, we've built momentum. With your support, we can continue strengthening Bois Forte's financial future, protecting sovereignty, and investing in our people.

Miigwetch for your trust and your vote.

Tara Geshick, Bois Forte Secretary Treasurer

Boney is optimistic his experience, hard work and commitment will pay off

Boozhoo,

As your candidate for Secretary-Treasurer, I would like to share my experience, vision, and commitment to our Band.

The Secretary-Treasurer serves as a key officer of the Band and is responsible for both financial management and administrative oversight.



Pete Boney

This role includes overseeing budgets, bank accounts, investments, tax filings, and bill payments. It also involves maintaining accurate records, preparing and presenting financial reports to Council and Band members, and ensuring proper bookkeeping and meeting documentation.

In addition, the Secretary-Treasurer ensures compliance with legal standards, accounting principles, and tribal policies. Every transaction must be properly tracked, audited, and documented. The position also supports Council activities and may act as chairperson in their absence. Above all, the Secretary-Treasurer safeguards both the administrative records and the financial health of the Band.

Growing up as a Band member,

I remember when past leadership maintained a strong financial reserve. During my time serving as your District II Representative, I worked toward rebuilding and retaining that reserve. I firmly believe restoring and maintaining a healthy financial reserve is not only possible, but necessary for our long-term stability.

While serving on Council, I witnessed firsthand how federal funding

See Boney on page 4

Burr has a vision for our future and a proven track record

Carol Burr (Villebrun) for Secretary-Treasurer Experience You Can Trust. A Vision for Our Future.

Dear Band Members,

My name is Carol Burr (Villebrun), and I am seeking your support for the position of Secretary-Treasurer. My roots in Nett Lake run deep—from family berry picking and ricing to celebrating winters at the gravel pits, this community shaped who I am. My husband Tom, our children Joshua and Bridgette, and my extended family are the reason I am so deeply committed to the prosperity of Bois Forte.

A Proven Track Record of Action

I am running for this office because I believe our Tribe must move toward true self-sufficiency. My career has been defined by delivering tangible results for our people:



Carol Burr

- **Housing & Infrastructure:** As your former Housing Director for 13 years, I spearheaded the construction of 70 new housing units. In my current role as Planning & Community Development Director, I have overseen the completion of the new Public Works/Food Shelf facility in Vermilion and the Deep Winter Greenhouse in Nett Lake.

- **Economic & Tribal Development:** I am currently managing the construction of the new DNR building—featuring climate-controlled rice storage—and the Big Woods Transit facility, which includes critical water and sewer expansions.

- **Safety & Planning:** We recently completed a comprehensive Transportation Safety Plan to secure funding for turn lanes, evacuation routes, and a safer intersection at the Y-Store.

- **Diverse Experience:** My eight years with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and my work with the Navajo Nation and Three Affiliated Tribes have given me a broad perspective on how successful Tribal nations operate and grow.

My Vision for Bois Forte

The status of federal funding is changing, and we must be prepared. As your Secretary-Treasurer, I will focus on three key pillars:

1. **Economic Diversification:** We must pursue new business opportunities to build our funding reserves and reduce our dependence on the Federal Government.

2. **Growth & Services:** I will continue to fight for the funding needed to build new Senior Housing and a dedicated Workforce Center.

3. **Transparent Communication:** Communication is the foundation of a strong nation. I propose hiring a Communications Manager to ensure every Band member is informed. Further-

more, I will reinstate community meetings across Minnesota so that every member—on or off the reservation—has a seat at the table.

Experience That Serves You

Whether working for the Minnesota Department of Transportation or managing grants that helped 78 youth obtain their GEDs and certifications, I have always focused on empowerment. My experience living both on and off the reservation allows me to represent the unique needs of our entire Band.

I love this work, and I love this Tribe. I am asking for your vote to help lead Bois Forte into a self-sufficient, prosperous future where every member is seen and heard.

If you have any questions, please call my cell phone at 218-780-7596 or send me an email (burrkarol60@gmail.com)

Miigwech,

Carol Burr (Villebrun)

Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer

Boney from page 3

cuts impacted our programs and services. Reductions to Native programs and other U.S. programs have had lasting effects. The COVID PPE funds were a blessing and helped us remain financially stable during uncertain times. However, I do not believe that level of emergency funding will be available again. We must prepare for challeng-

ing years ahead by carefully reviewing our programs, protecting essential services, and strengthening our financial position.

I am currently working at the Y-Store after moving back home to help the Band. Over the years, I have worked in housing, at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, with Head Start—where my sons proudly called me the “Lunch Lady”—and as your District II Rep-

resentative. After attempting retirement for a few months, I realized I still have more to give. I want to continue serving the people who have given so much to me and my family.

Economic development must also be part of our path forward. Over the past two years, another individual and I have worked with investors who presented two proposals to the Council: a grow facility and cannabis dispensaries. We were told to take our investors elsewhere. They did, and they are now doing very well. That leaves us asking: where is our grow facility?

When Minnesota announced that tribes would have the first opportunity beginning August 1, 2023, I believed we should have acted immediately. In my view, we are behind. However, I still believe we have an opportunity to move forward. If we are serious about building revenue and restoring our financial reserve, we must act decisively and strategically. With the right planning and timely agreements, we can position ourselves to benefit from this

industry.

I believe in restoring financial strength, protecting our programs, and preparing responsibly for the future. Building and maintaining a strong reserve will require discipline, transparency, and thoughtful decision-making. We must plan carefully, invest wisely, and ensure accountability in every dollar we spend.

Our Band deserves steady leadership, financial responsibility, and a clear vision for the years ahead. I am ready to bring experience, commitment, and determination to the role of Secretary-Treasurer.

Questions? Please call, email, or contact me on Facebook.

Phone: (763) 245-3325

Facebook: Peter Boney Candidate for Secretary Treasurer

Email: eatmac@yahoo.com

Thank you,

Peter F. Boney

TRIBAL MEMBERS

Minnesota Tax Information for American Indians

American Indians may qualify for tax benefits in Minnesota. The specific benefits may vary based on whether you:

- Are an enrolled member of a Tribe recognized by the U.S. government (MN.gov).
- Live and work on your Tribe's reservation.
- Receive wages or other income from your Tribe or a business on your reservation.

Mattson has big plans should he get elected

Boozhoo,

My name is Jeff Mattson, and I am running for secretary-treasurer of Bois Forte. I would like to thank everybody who has reached out to



Jeff Mattson

me, talked with me on various topics and has given me ideas, insight, and knowledge about problems our band is facing. My main ideas I would like to bring forward immediately.

- At-Large representative position – This resolution would replace one of the District I positions, this is important to our band members to balance out the representation for all districts and band members located off-reservation. This resolution would be a huge benefit to all band members, as you would be able to have your voice

heard equally and fairly. I want to support this resolution and want to be part of the progressive changes our band needs.

- Increasing our per capita payments — the per capita percentage we get from the state should be increased, with rising costs of living, this would be a huge benefit for our band members to be able to use that to get caught up on bills, buy school supplies, clothes for their children, I want to give the ability to our band members to feel comfort and that our band is looking out for them, not only on a financial level, but a personal level as well.

- Helium mining payments — whether this is to our band to supplement the program costs, or payments directly to band member pockets. I believe getting our seat at the table to negotiate for the Helium mine in Bab-

bitt, which is on 1854 land, would be a huge benefit for our band. I am not for mining; however, the mine will be put in place and will be operating. It is a new industry coming into our treaty lands is something that we need to address as a band.

- Implementing a board of directors over BFDC – This is something that has been promised every campaign season, and I am telling you that I will spend my next four years if elected to implement a board, and allowing them autonomy to build our business into the money makers they are meant to be. Our people need our leaders working with the state and the federal government on what really matters, securing grants, lobbying bills that will benefit our band, putting our voices at the tables.

Of course, there is more that can be addressed, but we as a band need

to start somewhere, I have not forgotten about blood quantum, lateral violence, or band member employment as just a few of the topics that I didn't get the chance to elaborate on.

If elected, I will work tirelessly to work on our band's issues; we will work together and get back to our roots. I am asking for your support in this election, and I encourage all band members to get out and vote! Please invite your friends and family to cast their ballot as well.

I wish the other candidates good luck in this election and wish them the best.

Thank you for taking the time to read my article. Please contact me by phone at 218-780-7445 or via email at jdm.mattson@gmail.com.

I am always available to talk and want to hear from you and your concerns.

Morrison is eager to serve the Bois Forte people again

Elect David C. Morrison Sr. as Secretary Treasurer, Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe



Dave Morrison

I am honored by the opportunity to serve as your Secretary Treasurer and to work alongside our Tribal Government to build a stronger, more prosperous future for our people and for generations yet to come. Our decisions today will shape tomorrow, and I am ready to lead with integrity, accountability, and vision.

Throughout my years of service under different administrations, I have demonstrated the ability to adapt, collaborate, and lead effectively in changing environments. My experience has strengthened fundamental skills required of a strong leader: honesty, transparency, and sound judgment. I have built a reputation rooted in integrity and trust, and I will carry those

values into every decision I make as your Secretary Treasurer.

Clear communication and active listening are at the heart of good governance. Your voice matters, and I am committed to fostering true transparency in our government and economic development efforts so that every Band Member feels informed, heard, and respected.

If elected, I will continue advancing the work we began by establishing a Code of Ethics, positioning Bois Forte as one of the first Tribes to take a bold and meaningful step toward greater accountability in Tribal governance. I am proud to have contributed to the work on a Tribal Resolution that enables recognition of other Chipewewa bloodlines in the enrollment process. I remain committed to seeing this work continue.

At the grassroots level, I will work to protect and preserve our vital natural resources. The infestation of lily pads on our sacred lake and the de-

clining deer and wildlife populations directly affect our traditional foods and cultural practices. These are not just environmental concerns; they are matters of cultural survival that we cannot ignore.

Equally important is the revitalization of our Ojibwe language. I will propose a strategic plan to address our lost language with clear timelines and measurable goals to restore and strengthen our language. I will work to put our culture at the forefront of our government through policy development.

The need for new, safe, and comfortable housing is vital and will allow elderly people to live at home for as long as possible. I will explore ways to accommodate surroundings that are compatible with our culture for when the time comes, and more care is needed.

Sound fiscal stewardship will remain at the core of my responsibilities. I will ensure that government

and economic development funds are carefully evaluated, monitored, and managed. I will promote a Board of Directors comprised of qualified Band Members to advise the Tribal Council, recognizing that fiscal responsibility and transparency are essential for long-term stability and growth.

I have always stood up for what I believe is right and in our people's best interest. If elected as your Secretary-Treasurer, I pledge to work tirelessly on your behalf with dedication, fairness, and respect.

I humbly ask for your support in the upcoming Primary Election on March 31st, 2026. Together we can strengthen our government, protect our traditions, and build a future we can be proud to pass on to future generations.

Please feel free to call me and let me know how I can work to address your concerns.

Mii gwetch
David C. Morrison Sr.
(218) 348 9815

Moyer, Jr. will continue to protect our sovereignty

Dear Bois Forte Tribal Members,

It has been an honor to serve our people and our community. I respectfully ask for your support and your vote for re-election.



Robert Moyer

Throughout my term, I have worked to uphold our values, protect our sovereignty, and ensure that decisions reflect the voices of our members. I remain committed to transparency, accountability, and creating opportunities that strengthen our families today and for generations to come.

I want to recognize the hard-working employees of our tribal government, Bois Forte Enterprises, and Fortune Bay Resort Casino. Their dedication and daily efforts keep our government operating, our enterprises growing, and our community moving forward. Our economic strength is built on their professionalism and commitment. They deserve leadership that supports them, advocates for them, and ensures continued success.

We have celebrated important

milestones for our community, including the opening of the new Public Works building and the food shelf in Vermilion. These projects represent more than new facilities—they represent investment in infrastructure, self-sufficiency, and care for our people. We have also expanded services at our urban offices in Duluth and Minneapolis by adding a Housing Resource Case Manager at each location. These positions strengthen support for our urban members by helping families navigate housing challenges, access critical resources, and maintain stability. Ensuring access to essential services and supporting families in times of need remain core priorities.

Protecting our natural resources, especially our water, remains one of my highest responsibilities. Water is life. It sustains our people, our traditions, and our future. I will continue to stand firm in protecting our lands, waters, and treaty rights so that future generations inherit a healthy and thriving homeland.

Strong leadership also means maintaining productive and respectful communication with federal, state, and local elected officials. Building and sustaining these relationships en-

tures our Tribe has a strong voice at every level of government and secures the resources, partnerships, and protections our community deserves.

As we strengthen our economic future, I will continue supporting the growth of our enterprises, including Fortune Bay and Ishkode, and pursue responsible opportunities to expand our cannabis operations, including exploring the development of a tribally owned grow operation. By keeping production within our control, we can create jobs, increase revenue, and further exercise our sovereignty in a growing industry while ensuring thoughtful regulation and community input.

If re-elected, I will continue to:

- Advocate for responsible leadership and sound financial stewardship.
- Support and value our tribal government and enterprise employees.
- Strengthen Fortune Bay, Ishkode, and pursue new economic opportunities.
- Explore the development of a tribally owned cannabis grow operation.
- Protect our natural resources—especially our water.
- Maintain strong working rela-

tionships with federal, state, and local officials.

- Invest in community infrastructure and essential services.
- Prioritize member services and community well-being.
- Defend our treaty rights and tribal sovereignty.
- Listen to and represent the voices of our members.

I remain committed to serving with integrity, respect, and dedication to the Bois Forte people. I also want every tribal member and every employee to know that I am available and willing to listen to your ideas, your concerns, and your vision for our future.

I humbly ask for your vote and the opportunity to continue working on your behalf.

Miigwech for your trust and support.

Sincerely,
Robert Moyer Jr.
District II Vermilion Representative
218-410-4008

O'Leary will be an advocate for all band members

Boozhoo, Ahneen, Hello!

I am writing this letter not just to Vermilion voters, but to all Bois Forte voters.



Tim O'Leary

My name is Tim O'Leary and I'm asking for your vote. I am asking to be the Representative for District II. I wish to bring knowledge of casino operations, 30 years of first hand experience of gaming and openness to all of the Bois Forte band members in my role as District II Representative. My goal is to reconnect

our trust when it comes to communication that has been shelved over the years regarding our largest and most important Band owned business. I will not let you down!

I have seen firsthand how the knowledge of all of our businesses from the Casino to the new Ishkode dispensary, have been kept under wraps from everyday band members. I plan on working with council members to show the math. I believe everyone has the right to know.

I am writing now to answer any questions about who I am, and what my life stands for as a human being, a

band member, as a leader.

I moved to the Vermilion area in 2012 to get out of the city and live my new life in peace and enjoy the lake life I have worked so hard for, and always dreamed of. In this process I mostly left masonry behind and started my job at Fortune Bay with the highest of hopes to expand my gaming experience along with the ability to rise to the challenge of becoming a leader within Fortune Bays' ranks. Unfortunately, being a band member with gaming experience and leadership roles in my portfolio, didn't mean what I hoped it would.

Nowadays, as candidates, we are

asked to put out a "mission statement," along with our personal goals to become a council member. I have no personal goals that are just mine, but I do have the goals not just of the people who elect me, but for all Bois Forte band members and their descendants whether they vote for me or not. There is none who will be put above another.

As a council member, something to be focused on is putting our band members in full-time positions at our casino. Being a full-time employee allows them access to Fortune Bay's

See O'Leary on page 7

Sherman will work hard, listen and communicate

My name is Alanna Sherman, and I am respectfully asking for your support as I run for District II Representative. I am running because I love our people and our community, and, like all of you, I am invested in our future.



Alanna Sherman

This decision did not come quickly. It came from watching, listening, learning, and understanding that our tribe deserves leadership that is steady, thoughtful, and grounded. I am not running on big promises. Real change does not happen overnight. Success takes time. It takes planning, teamwork, and patience. I believe in slow and steady progress, built on strong foundations rather than rushed decisions.

Before we chase new ventures, we must take care of what we already have. Our homes. Our language. Our youth and elders. Our businesses, pro-

grams, and most importantly, our people. Building on a solid foundation ensures sustainable, lasting growth. If we are not strong within, we cannot expect to thrive beyond our community.

I strongly believe that our community needs to start focusing on:

•Taking care of our existing housing and infrastructure before expanding further

Honestly assessing current housing and infrastructure conditions and prioritizing needed repairs. We should create a long-term maintenance plan rather than continually reacting to urgent fixes. Our families deserve safe and healthy living environments. We should also pursue housing rehabilitation grants and improve the availability of homes for band members who want to move back home.

•Strengthening communication and transparency with band members

Trust is built through communication. I support providing regular updates from the Tribal Council and hosting listening sessions for both on and off reservation band members.

Election time should not be the only time we hear or see our leaders.

•Recognizing and supporting our off-reservation band members

Our off-reservation band members are a part of us. Their success strengthens the tribe as a whole. We must provide outreach, ensure they are included in tribal updates and initiatives, and explore partnerships or services that benefit those living in metro areas.

•Actively pursuing grants to improve housing, community programs, and economic stability

There are resources available; we must be proactive in bringing them home. Building our grant-writing team can help us identify and secure funding for housing, workforce development, youth programs, and language programs. By leveraging outside funding, we reduce the strain on tribal funds and create new opportunities for growth.

Reinvesting in our businesses to keep them competitive and evolving

Fortune Bay is one of our tribe's

greatest assets and economic drivers. We must continue reinvesting in it. That means improving our hotel, amenities, gaming floor, and overall guest experience. We must remain competitive; we cannot afford to remain stagnant. By strengthening Fortune Bay and BFDC, we strengthen opportunities for our tribe.

My commitment is simple: I will work hard. I will listen. I will communicate openly. I will not promise what cannot realistically be delivered, but I will promise effort, integrity, and accountability.

Working together creates bigger opportunities.

In closing, I am always available to meet with band members who would like to share their concerns, ideas, or changes they feel need to be heard. I am ready to listen. I can be reached at (218) 780-7710, sherman.alanna5@gmail.com, or on Facebook.

Miigwetch for your time and consideration.

Alanna Sherman

O'Leary from page 6

401K benefits, insurance, and a much greater chance at in-house advancement into supervisory roles.

Being a full-time employee means showing up for all your shifts, holding yourself up to a higher standard, and most of all, losing that sense of self entitlement. Being a band member does not give us a free pass for misbehavior. A major component as a full-time employee is taking pride in representing Bois Forte and being an outstanding individual and leading by example. Be graceful!

We need a new elder care complex! This task falls in the boundaries of the Planning Department. The planning meetings are by invite only; everyday band members are not allowed in the planning and decisions for our community. To date, I have not heard

of any plans to build a new elder apartment complex.

Every spring I take to the waters as part in our netting season. The hard work is rewarding in the end and gives us an opportunity to help others by setting and pulling nets for them, as well as sharing the bounty with all that love that fresh lake walleye.

It is my pleasure to write this and send it out to you in our newspaper. There will be forums available to attend virtually or in person on March 11th, and March 12th. One in Nett Lake, and one here in Vermilion. I sincerely hope to be hearing from you!

To find out more about my candidacy or ask questions, I have a Facebook page that is always up. Tim O'Leary For Vermilion Territory Representative.

Chi Miigwech,
District II candidate, Tim O'Leary

Check out the Ishkode Dispensary website!

Visit ish-kode.com to pre-order to save you time and make sure to visit the website in the coming weeks for the team's 420 plan!

For more information, call 218-696-1060.

Ishkode Dispensary, which is located next to Fortune Bay Resort Casino's RV Park, is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. They even have EV chargers available to its guests!

Thank you for your continued support!

Villebrun provides overview of Bois Forte TERO program

Submitted by Warren Villebrun

NETT LAKE—Here is a quick guide to comply with the Bois Forte Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) across the entire Tribal Government and their entities including

but not limited to Fortune Bay Resort and Casino, Y-Store, C-Store, The Wilderness, and Ishkode:

This is to outline the procedures to follow to ensure compliance with the tribal employment rights, here are

some key bullet points regarding the procedures:

CONTRACTORS

1. Registration – All contractor and employers working within and 100 miles around the reservation boundaries must register with the TERO office to conduct business.

2. Payroll Records – Employers must maintain payroll records documenting wages and hours worked by employees, ensuring compliance with the TERO wage standards.

3. Job Posting – Before hiring external candidates, contractor must post job openings with the TERO office to give preference to qualified tribal members.

4. Contract Compliance – Entities must include TERO compliance clauses in contracts, ensuring that all subcontractors are also aware of and comply with TERO compliance. General contractor alone will cover the TERO 4% fee for working on or within 100 miles within the boundaries of the Reservation.

5. Reporting – Regular reporting

may be required to demonstrate compliance with employment ratios and other TERO standards.

6. Training and Support – Employers must make efforts to provide training programs for tribal members to enhance their employability in various roles. TERO is also able to provide certain training separately from employes in partnership with Mn Department of transportation and MN department of civil rights, also in cooperation with local unions and Minnesota North colleges, among others.

7. Monitoring and Enforcement – The TERO office will conduct monitoring and may enforce compliance through fines or other measures against non-compliant entities.

For specific details or further inquiries about compliance procedures, it is advisable to contact the Bois Forte TERO office directly.

If you need more in-depth information or specific forms related to TERO, please feel free to contact the TERO office at 218-757-3321, Ext. 1196.

Bois Forte Housing Department update

Submitted by Millie Holmes

Well, things have moved along quite fast in the past few months since I started working here. As everyone knows by now, Housing has a new director who runs a tidy ship.

First and foremost, we have spruced up the files, and acclimated ourselves to some of the many rules and regs of the Housing world. Next, we will be moving on to the plans we have for some of the basic housing maintenance tasks. Ya know, these things don't get done by themselves.

Our staff is also being trained on some of new House Inspection lists we currently have to conduct at least once a

year on all the properties under the care of Bois Forte Housing.

I, myself, have learned a new thing or two and been reminded of one or two tasks I'd been forgetting to do. Well, one learns something new every day.

Our current visiting plan which finally got implemented in February is to visit Vermilion on RTC payday Fridays and Nett Lake on the off-weeks. These visits are for Housing Tenants to get their Annual Recertifications done in a timely manner. Hours are currently from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you need a ride to the Center be sure to let us know at 218.757.3261 before 8:30 a.m. We will be leaving at 8:45 a.m. sharp.


NETT LAKE
PHARMACY
218-757-0230

VERMILION
PHARMACY
218-753-2182

MICHAEL LaROQUE, PRESIDENT
FARON JACKSON, SR., VICE PRESIDENT

DR. LUKE WARNSHOLZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

APRIL MCCORMICK, SECRETARY
LEONARD M. FINEDAY, TREASURER



The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE

The Regular Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Election of the BOIS FORTE Reservation Business Committee a/k/a Tribal Council will be held on March 31, 2026, to fill the following positions:

ELECTION DATE: March 31, 2026

POLLING PLACES:

<p>DISTRICT I: Government and Community Services Bldg. 5344 Lake Shore Drive Orr, MN 55771</p>	<p>DISTRICT II: Vermilion Social Center 1610 Farm Road South Tower, MN 55790</p>
<p>BOIS FORTE DULUTH: URBAN OFFICE: Duluth Urban Office 1915 South Street Duluth, MN 55812</p>	<p>BOIS FORTE MINNEAPOLIS URBAN OFFICE: Minneapolis American Indian Center 1530 E. Franklin Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55404</p>

- (District I – is the Designated Polling Place for absentee ballot voting)

POLLS OPEN: 8:00 a.m. **CLOSE:** 8:00 p.m.

SECRETARY/TREASURER – 4 Year Term

Carol Burr
David C. Morrison, Sr.
Jeffrey Mattson
Peter “Chief” Boney
Tara Geshick *Incumbent


CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT I COMMITTEEPERSON – 4 Year Term

Only two (2) Candidates
No Primary Election

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT II COMMITTEEPERSON – 4 Year Term

Tim O’Leary
Alanna K. Sherman
Robert Moyer Jr. *Incumbent

Date: February 17, 2026


Dr. Luke Warnsholz, Executive Director

MEMBER RESERVATIONS • BOIS FORTE • FOND DU LAC • GRAND PORTAGE • LEECH LAKE • MILLE LACS • WHITE EARTH
NI-MAH-MAH-WI-NO-MIN “We all come together”
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 217, Cass Lake, MN 56633-0217 • Street Address: 15542 State 371 N.W., Cass Lake, MN 56633

Ishkode Dispensary quietly celebrates its first anniversary

VERMILIONSECTOR— Starting a new business is never easy, as there are many growing pains associated with the endeavor, not to mention a lot of red tape to cut through and the overall logistics of staying afloat in uncharted waters.

However, Ishkode Dispensary Manager Paxton Goodsky never flinched and has maintained a positive attitude as Bois Forte’s much-hyped cannabis operation opened its doors on the last day of February in 2025.

“The first year was great,” said Goodsky, who oversees a small staff of four employees at the business, which is located near Fortune Bay’s RV Park. “We learned a lot, as it is a new type of business in the state. We adjusted and adapted well.”

Bois Forte Tribal Chairman Carlos Hernandez agreed and thanked

Goodsky and his team for the work they’ve done thus far.

“One year ago, we made a deliberate decision grounded in sovereignty, responsibility, and long-term vision,” said Hernandez. “Ishkode, meaning fire, represents life, renewal, and strength. Over the past year, that fire has come to symbolize economic self-determination for our Nation.”

Goodsky said the hardest part was finding a vendor that met the dispensary’s state-mandated regulations. This entailed a lot of blood, sweat, and tears by tribal management, Goodsky, and his team before the doors even opened.

“We originally had one vendor for our vapes/concentrates and one for flower and pre-rolls, but have now switched vendors for flowers and pre-rolls,” said Goodsky, whose store car-



QUALITY TEAM!— Here are three members of the Ishkode Dispensary team, including Keenin Sargent, Cheyenne Boshey and Manager Paxton Goodsky.

ries premium flower, hand-crafted pre-rolls, disposable vapes, cartridges, edibles, and concentrates. “The Min-

nesota market was very limited at the time of opening.”

Despite bringing in a brand-new building, Goodsky said a lot of work still needed to be done to it to ensure the product would not be compromised, as marijuana flower’s shelf life can deteriorate if not stored properly, not to mention passing rigid inspections. Matching the color scheme throughout the spacious floor plan to its iconic logo also took time, ensuring guests coming through the door were met with a “wow” factor of sorts.

See Ishkode page 12



Minute with Millie

One day last month, I was getting out of the car after work. I heard a crow. Or thought I did. Brother thought it was a chickadee. So we carried on a bit of a conversation about it.

Cause as one knows, hearing the first crow means spring has started. At work the next day, I was talking about it. Of course, ravens were mentioned. I do know there is a difference in crows and ravens. And that ravens stick around in the winter.

Kinda weird. I know the difference between crow and raven voices. I talk to both all the time. Sometimes, when I walk to the store in the spring, summer and fall they’ll talk loud, sometimes screech, to get my attention.

“Okay, okay, I hear ya. What do ya want?”

Then a happy sounding sqwawking among a few of the crows as they call back and forth. I smile and wave at a couple and continue on my way. Sometimes, I’m in a hurry and say “Oh, what do you want today? I’m on my way to....and can’t stop to dilly dally.”

They fly away calling out to others, perhaps telling them I’m busy and not to bother me.

Oh ravens get a bit noisier and I rarely even say anything to them. Just an occasional okay, Yeah, yeah yeah, suffices for their daily reports of goings on in the bird world.

I talk to other birds, animals and such if I happen to pass them on one or another of my daily walks. Interesting conversationalists.

I look forward to many such events when I hear the first crow.



Here is the Elder Nutrition Program’s menu for the month of March. 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.

NOTE: Menu is subject to change.

March 2: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Green Beans, Fruit

March 3: Grilled Chicken Breast Rice Pilaf, Italian Veggie Blend, Fruit

March 4: Chili with Beans, Veggie, Sal-tines

March 5: Baked Ham, Potato Salad, Glazed Carrots, Fruit

March 6: BBQ Pork Sandwich, Chef Choice Potato, 3 Bean Salad, Fruit

March 9: Pork Tips, Parslied Noodles, Veggie Blend, Fruit

March 10: Chicken Tenders, Mac & Cheese, Veggie, Fruit

March 11: Beef Stew with Whole Wheat Bun, Veggie, Fruit

March 12: Lasagna Roll-Ups, Italian Veggie Blend, Garlic Bread, Fruit

March 13: Beef & Bean Burrito, Spanish Rice, Cheese & Sour Cream, Fruit

March 16: Chicken Pot Pie, Veggie, Fruit

March 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	31	1	2	3	4

March 17: Beef Ravioli, Cali Veggie Blend, Garlic Stick, Fruit

March 18: Pork Chops, Whole Baby Reds, Italian Veggies, Fruit

March 19: Hot Turkey, Biscuit, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Veggie

March 20: Wild Rice Meatballs, Rice Pilaf Blend, Corn, Fruit

March 23: Beef Stroganoff/Noodles, Green Beans, Fruit

March 24: Cheeseburger/Bun, Jojo Fries, Veggie, Fruit

March 25: Pork Chow Mein, Rice/Veggie Blend, Fruit

March 26: Chicken Noodle Soup, WW Dinner Roll, Fruit

March 27: Fish Filet, Rice Pilaf Blend, Veggie, Fruit

March 30: Breakfast! Sausage/Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Tangerine

March 31: Closed

Don't procrastinate when it comes to your financial aid needs!

NETT LAKE/VERMILION SECTOR— Make sure to get a head start on securing funds from the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) program! You can do so by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov after you or your parents have filed your Income Tax Return.

This is a free application so if you are asked to pay a fee, you went to the wrong website.

If you live on or near the Nett Lake Village or Vermilion Sector and do not have internet access, contact our office and schedule an appointment to use

a computer or for assistance. Metro area residents can contact the Urban Office at (612) 871-6618 for computer/internet access. Duluth area residents may contact the Duluth Urban Office at (218) 336-1048.

After completing your FAFSA application, complete the Minnesota Indian Scholarship Assistance Program (ISAP)*

Priority deadline is July 1—here are some other tips:

- Complete online at www.ohe.state.mn.us/indianscholarship
- Must be completed every year

you are attending college.

- Remember to submit proof of tribal enrollment. You may copy of the front and back of your tribal ID.

- Please contact the ISAP's office at (800) 657-3866 with questions.

- ISAP awards on a first come, first serve basis. It is not uncommon for them to run out of funds as during fall semester.

*Students outside of Minnesota, do NOT complete the ISAP. Instead, you must complete the equivalent form – the Bois Forte Out-of-State application and submit to the school you are planning to attend. They must forward the completed application to our office. If you need this form, please contact our office.

You must then download and print the Bois Forte Scholarship Program application by visiting (www.boisforte.com).

It is recommended to complete this application at the same time you

complete the other applications.

- Must be completed every year you are attending college.

- Other documents you will need to submit:

- Grades from previously funded semester

- Signed Student Agreement

- Non-MN based schools will require the Out of State application, also found on the website.

- An education plan may be requested for students who have been placed on financial aid probation or suspension.

- All awards are made on a first come, first serve basis. If funding becomes exhausted for the current fiscal year, students with completed application packages will be placed on a waiting list should additional funds become available.

If you have any questions, please call Leeanne Hoffman at 218-757-3261 Ext. 1401.

Bois Forte **ZOONDIDE'EWIN POWWOW**

GRAND ENTRY
1 PM & 6 PM
DINNER BREAK
4 PM

Saturday, April 25, 2026
Iron Trail Motors Event Center 919 6th St So Virginia, MN

VENDOR CONTACT
TONI WAKEMUP
218-404-8377

REGISTRATION
11:30 AM TO 1 PM
4:30 PM TO 6 PM

Spiritual Advisor Jeremy Wilson
Emcee Terry Goodsky
Arena Director Lance Kingbird
Host Drum Lake Vermilion
Co-Host Drum Hillside
Invited Drums Circle of Nations & Burntside Lake
Head Female Abbi Zapata
Head Male Curt Moon

Fortune Bay Room Block
Call to book: 218-753-6400
Ask for hotel reservations and reference
BKG575 SOBRIETY POWWOW ROOM BLOCK 2026
BOOKING CUT OFF: MARCH 26, 2026
Bois Forte Band Member Discount
with a Valid Tribal ID
(Be sure to mention it when you call)

DRUM SPLIT 1st 10 Drums
Drums & Singers
MUST
Be Registered
BEFORE
Grand Entries

Sponsored by

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH AND TRIBAL RELATIONS

CANNABIS PREVENTION GRANT

Check out these updates from ISD #2142

Submitted by Kim Jordan
ISD #2142 Director of Support Education and Title Services
Boozhoo!

Are you a parent of a student at North Woods or Northeast Range who has applied or is planning to apply to a college or trade school? Did you know that you can get reimbursed for this? If you save your receipt and turn in a copy to the Indian Education room, along with a completed W-9, the ISA can help you complete the reimbursement form. For more information, please talk to Sue at North Woods or Amanda at Northeast Range.

The Minnesota Indian Education Association Conference is March 18-20th at the Mystic Lake Casino in Prior Lake, Minnesota. Families, including parents and students, are invited to attend the conference. The 2142 AIPAC has set aside funds to reimburse families who would like to attend. For

more information, please reach out to Kim Jordan for more information. (218)749-8130, Ext. 1123 or kjordan@isd2142.k12.mn.us

Our AIPAC is always looking for parents to join. They meet on the third Sunday of each month. It is a virtual meeting. For more information, please contact: awarwas1234@gmail.com

Our students will show off all their creations on March 27th at 2:00 at Fortune Bay. The "Miskaa Niigan Fashion Show" will be presented in Ojibway by our Co-Master of Ceremony, Maddie Treuer and Jaylen Strong, and will feature products created and modeled by #2142 students. We will have some appetizers and beverages available. We also have over 20 Indigenous vendors selling their products. Come and join us and support our students! For more information, reach out to DeDe Drift at ddrift@isd2142.k12.mn.us

Bois Forte Heritage Center will be a busy place in March!

VERMILION SECTOR— The Bois Forte Heritage Center is the place to be this March as they have several great community events planned.

The Heritage Center's staff will be rolling out hands-on workshops, celebrations and community connections. They are even sponsoring a Fashion Show at Fortune Bay Resort Casino!

For specific start and end times, please contact the Bois Forte Heritage Center by calling 218-753-6017 or via email (jessica.anderson@bois-

forte-nsn.gov).

Here is the March 2026 event line-up:

Thursday, March 12:

Elders Day

Bois Forte Heritage Center

A special day honoring our Elders with community, activities, and appreciation. Big Woods Transit will transport to and from Nett Lake.

Saturday, March 14:

Ribbon Skirt Making Workshop

Bois Forte Heritage Center

Learn the cultural significance of ribbon skirts and create your own.

Thursday, March 19:

Scrapbooking Day

Bois Forte Heritage Center

Preserve memories, photos, and stories through creative scrapbooking.

Friday, March 27:

Indigenous Fashion Show

Fortune Bay Resort Casino—The Woodlands Ballroom

A celebration of Indigenous fashion, creativity, and self-expression.

ion, creativity, and self-expression.

Sunday, March 29:

Concho Belt Making Workshop

Bois Forte Heritage Center

Explore the history of concho belts in this hands-on workshop.

"We look forward to seeing you," said Anderson. "Come learn, create, and celebrate with us throughout the month of March!"

Wanted—Bois Forte band members and descendants!

Join the conversation regarding Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Constitution Education & Reform.

Monthly meetings will take place from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in person at the Bois Forte Heritage Center, 1500 Bois Forte Road, Tower MN 55790 or on Microsoft Teams.

The next meeting is slated for March

13th, followed by April 10th and May 8th.

Look in next month's Bois Forte News for additional updates and dates.

To join on Microsoft Teams:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/join/29987098171455?](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/29987098171455?p=7jxcx40Y33WSCK6FUO)

[p=7jxcx40Y33WSCK6FUO](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/29987098171455?p=7jxcx40Y33WSCK6FUO)

Meeting ID: 299 870 981 714 55

Passcode: j4Ui3bu9

CLIP & SAVE CLIP & SAVE CLIP & SAVE

TRACEY'S SCHEDULE

ENERGY ASSISTANCE, LICENCE PLATES, CSBG/MCAG

Do you need a title transfer, license plates, tab renewal?

Would you like to apply for Energy Assistance?

TRACEY'S SCHEDULE:

MONDAY- Vermilion Office

TUESDAY- Nett Lake Office

WEDNESDAY- Nett Lake Office

THURSDAY- Nett Lake Office

FRIDAY (non-payday)- Nett Lake Office

FRIDAY (payday)- Vermilion Office

You may contact Tracey at 218-757-3261 ext. 1197

Biindigen Welcome

Sixth Judicial District Public Defender's Office

Bois Forte Tribal Center

5344 Lakeshore Dr Nett Lake (Fish Room)

March 11, 2026 10:00am - 2:00pm

- State Court legal questions answered
- Get help with an Expungement
- Get assistance quashing warrants
- Talk to your Public Defender

Questions?

Call :218-733-1027

daniel.lew@pubdef.state.mn.us



Ishkode from page 9

“We remodeled the building, had to get with vendors to fill the dispensary,” explained Goodsky. “We had to make sure everything was compliant. It was a tough but very rewarding task. I would like to thank the council, Ishkode staff, and everyone who helped us get to where we are today.”

Hernandez said he is appreciative that Ishkode Dispensary, which is currently open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., has created meaningful employment opportunities for our band members and community.

“It has generated revenue that supports essential tribal services,” said Hernandez. “Most importantly, it has demonstrated that when we move strategically and with unity, we can build enterprises that strengthen our independence and keep resources circulating here at home.”

Goodsky said Ishkode Dispensary has grown tremendously in its inaugural year of operation. He is proud of his staff for taking pride in educating customers about its product line so they can have a better experience and perhaps try new products that they may not have tried without the knowledge given to them by his staff.

“We have also gotten great feedback regarding how friendly and educated our staff is,” said Goodsky, who added he and his team are thinking up a fun-filled day for 420, which is the universal day to commemorate the consumption of cannabis. “It’s nice to see our staff’s efforts are being recognized because they work hard to make sure every guest’s needs are met.”

While no extravagant first-anniversary celebration is planned, Goodsky is hopeful that Bois Forte’s leadership team continues with plans to build its own cultivation operation

sooner rather than later, as that will mean the Ishkode Dispensary no longer has to rely on other tribes to get its product and, therefore, eliminate the middleman, so to speak.

“It would definitely benefit the tribe with more jobs and more revenue for the dispensary,” said Goodsky. “I would like to thank the tribe for voting yes to cannabis, the council, Ishkode staff, and everyone who has helped out in any way to make this venture happen! I can’t wait to see what the future holds for the Bois Forte Cannabis Corporation!”

Hernandez said he could not disclose specific details at this time, but added that the Bois Forte Tribal Council is currently finalizing the direction of a new grow facility. He added that this next phase of development is centered on stability, quality control, and long-term sustainability.

“By expanding cultivation operations, we will increase product supply for our existing dispensary, enhance operational efficiency, and create additional jobs within our community,” said Hernandez. “Our long-term vision includes a tribally-owned model that

allows for future statewide dispensaries. With expanded cultivation capacity, we will be prepared to supply those operations while maintaining ownership, oversight, and economic benefit within our Nation.”

However, Hernandez said ambitious goals like these do not happen overnight and added that the council will take a cautious approach to these goals.

“We are approaching this growth carefully and responsibly. Each decision is being made with regulatory compliance, financial prudence, and community impact in mind,” he said. “Our goal is not rapid expansion, but sustainable success.”

Hernandez added that year one of this new business model laid the foundation, while year two will strengthen it.

“Miigwech to the Ishkode team for their professionalism and dedication,” said Hernandez. “Miigwech to our community for your continued trust and support. Together, we are building an economy that reflects our values and serves our people for generations to come.”

**BOIS FORTE 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION
ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST**

Please send me an absentee ballot for the Bois Forte Primary Election scheduled for March 31, 2026, on the Bois Forte Reservation. By completing this form, I certify that I am an enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band who is eligible to vote in the Primary Election per the requirements of the MCT Election Ordinance.

DISTRICT DESIGNATION

(PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE, REQUIRED)

District I (Nett Lake, Sugarbush, Indian Point) _____ **District II** (Vermilion) _____

By checking this box, I am also requesting an absentee ballot to be sent to me for the General Election scheduled for June 9, 2026, in the event that such election occurs.

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Scan to Submit form
online



Submit this form via U.S. Mail or Email to:

Bois Forte Reservation

General Election Board, PO Box 23, Nett Lake MN 55772

Email: electionboard@boisforte-nsn.gov

Election from page 1

There will be four polling places for the primary, including the Bois Forte Government and Community Service Building (5344 Lakeshore Drive, Orr, MN—please note that the building is in Nett Lake, but due to a change with the United States Postal Service regulations, the building now has an Orr address). This location is the designated Polling Place for absentee ballot voting.

The other polling locations are: Vermilion Social Center (1610 Farm Rd. South, Tower MN 55790); Duluth Urban Office (1915 South St. Duluth MN 55812); and the Minneapolis Urban Office—please note the new address, which is 1530 E. Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404.

Please see the advertisement to the left for information regarding a re-

quest for an absentee ballot.

Polls open at 8 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

There will be a live count of all four polling places beginning shortly after the polls close. The top two vote getters advance to the June 9th general election. However, if one of the candidates in the District II race or Secretary-Treasurer race get 50% of the vote, plus one additional vote, there would not be a need for a general election.

Regardless of which candidate you support, Lilya said the important thing is to get out and vote.

“Every Band Member’s voice matters,” said Lilya. “One of the most powerful ways to ensure your voice is heard is by exercising your right to vote. Please make a plan to cast your ballot in the Primary Election on March 31, 2026.”

Tribal Council approves Certification of Descendancy policy

NETT LAKE—The Bois Forte Tribal Council unanimously voted 4-0 to approve a Certificate of Descendancy policy at its February 4th meeting.

“It doesn’t mean they are going to get the rights of a band member. They are not going to get a per capita or money put into an account for them,” said Bois Forte District I Representative Shane Drift, who made the motion to accept the policy, which was seconded by District II Representative Robert Moyer, Jr. “It just recognizes them as a descendant of Bois Forte—that’s all it is.”

Secretary-Treasurer Tara Geshick and District I Representative Jeneal Goggeye also voted to accept the policy as presented by Bois Forte Human Resources Director Simona Benner and Tribal Enrollment Coordinator Kathie Holman.

Benner noted that the policy does

not establish membership eligibility and does not amend or supersede any enrollment standards outlined under the Constitution and laws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe or under band law or policy. Furthermore, the policy also does not guarantee eligibility for any particular services, benefits or programs.

“When we started on this, it was to help with identification of descendants of band members who wouldn’t be able to get a tribal ID,” said Bois Forte Tribal Chair Carlos Hernandez, who only votes to break a 2-2 tie. “It provides them another form of ID in case they had an encounter with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement).”

Hernandez said another benefit is there are some program eligibilities for them, since they will now have some type of documentation showing they are a descendant.

“They wouldn’t be able to get most of the services that are provided on the reservation, but off reservation, such as educational opportunities will be a benefit for them,” said Hernandez.

The fee to apply for a Certification of Descendancy is \$50 per application and the money is non-refundable, so please make sure you correctly fill out the form and provide the necessary paperwork. If you request a rush order, meaning you want it done in person, there will be an additional \$10 added, but there is no guarantee the paperwork will be completed the same day.

Hernandez thanked Benner and Tribal Enrollment Coordinator Kathie Holman for their work on the policy.

“Miigwech for pulling this together and the work you’ve done behind it,” said Hernandez. “It’s much appreciated.”

If you would like to fill out the nec-

essary paperwork to establish Certification of Descendancy, please go to the Bois Forte Tribal Government website (www.boisforte.com).

Once there, go to Resources and click on the down arrow. Highlight Enrollment and scroll down to Certificate of Descendancy. Click on the + sign and you can download and print the form.

Holman said it is important to note that a parent needs to be a Bois Forte enrollee for the first descendant request.

“This is to ensure that the person should verify with parents prior to sending in the form and the non-refundable payment,” added Holman.

If you have any questions or need assistance, you can reach out to Holman at 218-757-3261, Ext. 1162 or you can email her at kathie.holman@boisforte-nsn.gov

Bois Forte 477 Department covers many needs for our community

*Submitted by Vondale Carr
477 Director*

NETT LAKE—In 2020 The Bois Forte Education Department began to create a 477 Plan. The plan was approved by the Department of Labor in September 2022. With the plan came changes for Bois Forte; the Education Department was changed to the 477 Department, a 477 Director, Vondale Carr was hired, the Boys and Girls Club had move into their own department, different policies and guidelines for many familiar grants previously held by Bois Forte, time saving on reporting, and greater benefits to Bois Forte Band Members.

The 477 Department currently has the 477 Program including Scholarships, Early Childhood Programs, Tribal Employment Rights Office, License and Registration Program, Energy Assistance Program, Community Service Block Grant and Minnesota Community Action Grant Programs.

477 Program

Contacts:

Vondale Carr, 477 Director Email: vrcarr@boisforte-nsn.gov

Leanne Hoffman, Workforce Development Coordinator Email: lhoffman@boisforte-nsn.gov

Chrissy Fairchild, 477 Recruiter Email: chrissy.fairchild@boisforte-nsn.gov

What is 477?

477 is a public law 102-477 created by the Department of Labor in 1992 to strengthen and expand legislation to enhance the ability of tribal nations to meet their employment, training, education and economic development as the tribe sees fit.

This means tribes may consolidate up to several workforce development and related programs from the Department of Interior, Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services into their plan to create a customized, comprehensive approach to address the Tribe’s workforce development needs and priorities. Currently Bois Forte has seven grants in our plan.

How does 477 benefit Bois Forte?

• Bois Forte Band Members in need of employment, education, and training assistance.

• The Bois Forte Tribal Government

can set their own priorities for services rather than following Federal priori-

See 477 on page 14

Anishinaabe Storytelling

Join us to celebrate Traditional Storytelling & Feast with Dr. Anton Treuer
March 6, 2026 - Nett Lake RTG

Ninga-wiionge'aamin aadizookaanag.
Friday, March 6, 2026 • 5–8 PM
Nett Lake RTG

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH
AND TRIBAL RELATIONS

477 from page 14

ties.

- Youth involvement in work ethics and skills training.
- New hire preparations such as uniforms, tools, etc.
- Vehicle repairs
- Post-secondary scholarships
 - o Bois Forte Band Members applying only for post-secondary scholarships do not need to complete the 477 application, they however, need to complete the scholarship applications which are found at boisforte.com. Eligibility for scholarships is not consistent with the eligibility for the 477 program. Please contact Leanne Hoffman for scholarship information. Additional information is included in this issue of the Bois Forte News.

Who is eligible for 477?

- Bois Forte Band Member
- Residency within the Bois Forte 477 Service Area (living on the reservation, 70 miles from the reservation boundaries and those working with the Urban Office staff)
 - Meet 150% of the current year poverty guidelines
- Adult applicants also must be one or more of the following to be eligible for services:
 - Unemployed
 - Underemployed
 - Income eligibility must not exceed 150% of the current year's Poverty Guidelines
 - Recipient of a bona fide layoff no-

tice

- Requires skill enhancement to obtain, retain, or advance in employment

- Military veteran

Bois Forte Early Childhood Programs

Contact: Rhiannon Strong, Early Childhood Program Manager

Email: rhiannon.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov

Bois Forte Early Childhood Programs offer care to infants and children aged six weeks to five-years old. We provide developmentally appropriate enrichment throughout the day, as well as two nutritious meals. Child Care, Head Start and Early Head Start involves input from parents, a child's first and best teacher! Parent involvement makes our program unique. We have chances to connect with other parents in our community on our Family Fun Nights, Reading Rocks events, Parent Committees, and special celebrations! Our management staff will be out at events in the spring completing our Community Assessment survey, watch for us!

Energy Assistance, Community Supported Block Grant, Registrar

Contact: Tracey Dagen, Registrar and Programs Manager Email: tracey.dagen@boisforte-nsn.gov

Energy Assistance Program

- Can assist your energy bills like propane and electricity if income qualified
- Assistance begins October 1 of each year.

- Funds are received from November to December each year.

- Ends June 30.

• Payments for energy bills are sent directly to the household's energy company or to a provider of propane, fuel oil or wood.

• Clients do NOT wait until the last minute when you receive your disconnect notice or until you run out of propane to contact our office. Do it ASAP!

Community Service Block Grant/MN Community Action Grant

- Rental Assistance, \$500.00 maximum assistance
- Vehicle Repair, \$500.00 maximum assistance
- Employment Clothing, maximum assistance \$250.00
- Assistance may not exceed \$500.00 in total for the program
- May be accessed once every 12 months
- Income eligibility must not exceed 200% of the current year's Poverty Guidelines

• Payments are made direct to the Vendor

• Vendor must submit a W-9 form and Statement of Use

Registrar

Maintain the issuance of Bois Forte Tribal Government license plates, titles and registration

- Must be a Bois Forte Band member or a member of a federally recognized tribe living within the boundaries of the Bois Forte Reservation to be eligible.
- Must live within the boundaries of the Bois Forte Reservation to be eligible.
- Cost is determined by the type of plate and year of vehicle

This office is working on going Statewide for all Bois Forte Band members. Please stay tuned for more devel-

opments.

Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance Office

Contact: Warren Villebrun, Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance Officer

Email: wvillebrun@boisforte-nsn.gov


The tribal ordinance is basically a law on reservation; no contractor can work projects on reservation land and within a 100-mile radius of the reservation boundaries unless they sign up with the Tribal Rights Ordinance Office. This is enforced by the TERO Officer, Warren Villebrun. Contractors must include in the application a compliance plan for the projects. The ordinance states that contractors are to have at least 50% to 75% band members hired on each project. There is a 4% TERO fee for all general contractors for each project. This fee in turn helps the TERO program offer different training opportunities to all Bois Forte band members and their spouses. The TERO office is in the process of amending the ordinance to include descendants of band members. The TERO office has an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and The Minnesota Department of Civil Right which aids in funding the trainings with specific unions in Minnesota, such as the Cement Masons union in New Brighton for a ten week training and the Carpenters unions in Bemidji and Hermantown for Highway Heavy Carpenters training for 4 weeks in either location, also the 49ers union in Hinckley, MN. They provide a 4-week training course at their training center in Hinckley, MN. Once the individual completes the training, they are provided an opportunity to meet their signature contractor and hopefully join their team to sponsor the individual as an apprentice.

PETER "CHIEF" BONEY

VOTE!

for
BOIS FORTE
SECRETARY TREASURER

Ph: (763) 245-3325
Email: eatmac@yahoo.com
Facebook: Peter Boney - Candidate for
Secretary Treasurer



The State of the Band will be held on Saturday,
March 7, 2026 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Fortune
Bay Resort Casino. Hope to see you there!

Bois Forte Tribal Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a Regular meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held October 1, 2025, at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, Woodlands Board Room, Minnesota-Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 9:55 a.m.

Invocation done by Vern Adams.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present:

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the agenda with the addition of district election board members. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve RTC meeting minutes, regular session, from Special Meeting held September 17, 2025. Carried 3-0-0

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

- a) Site agreement with MASTEC Network Solutions to reinstall cellular antennas on water tower at Fortune Bay. 3-0-0
- b) Contract with Utility Systems of American for Big Woods Transit project water/wastewater tie in. 3-0-0
- c) Approving more IHS funds for construction of Nett Lake sewer ponds rehab, amend #3 due to discovery of human remains. 3-0-0
- d) Media consent and release from Leech Lake MNTRECC project for drone footage of community for Bois Forte Early childhood.

- 3-0-0
- e) Contract with DSGW for Workforce and Economic Development facility 3-0-0
- f) FY 26 Head Start Grant 3-0-0
- g) Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with DSGW for DNR Facility 3-0-0 Carried 3-0-0

Miranda Lilya reads the following statement from Jacob White & Ginew Benton regarding an update on the Ghost Lake Film project:

"The producers for the Ghost Lake film are pushing their shoot dates to November 2-10, 2025 because of a scheduling change with one of the actors. They will be casting some lead actor and background roles this month, and are looking to hire Bois Forte band members for those roles as well as few crew positions on the film.

Look out for posters and social media announcements. Also, if you are interested, you can contact Producer Jacob White at jacob@whitepineproductions.net or Producer/Writer/Director Ginew Benton at ginew.benton.banai@gmail.com"

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve bid recommendation and bid tabulation for the Big Woods Transit project phase 2 to Valint Construction. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the trade in of the 2017 John Deere 33G skid steer for purchase of 2025 John Deere 335 P-tier compact track loader from McCoy Construction Forestry out of Duluth, MN. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the purchase from Samsara-Technology for GPS and video sur-

veillance for all transit vehicles. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the MOU with Developing Radio Partners for collaboration during the ideation and proposal development phase for potential joint projects. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the service agreement with Spintron, LLC for services provided yearly. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the sale of 6 maintenance trucks to Kenny Huismann in the amount of \$12,000.00. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the Joint Powers agreement with State of MN for consulting services with Bois Forte for incorporating Native Voices into coastal places project. Carried 2-1-0 (Shane Drift opposed)

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the research and date sharing agreement with Center for Research and Evaluation services U of W-Superior. Carried 3-0-0

Recess is taken at 10:45 am.

Reconvene at 10:59 am.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the lease addendum for crime-free/drug-free housing addendum at New Moon. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr; seconded by Tara

Geshick; to approve the IHS buyback/withhold agreement for FY 2026. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; for waiver of data privacy ordinance to release partially protected band member information. Carried 3-0-0

Kim Greiner provides a financial update as of 09/30/2025.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve Resolution No. 27-2026, 2025-2026 NCAI Membership Dues. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Aleena Steel to the Duluth urban office election board. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Terry Defoe to the District 2 election board. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Marissa Rose to the District 2 election board. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve Bessie Medicine to the District 2 election board. Carried 2-1-0 (Robert Moyer, Jr. silent)

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to adjourn at 11:23 a.m. Carried 3-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving
Approved at Regular RTC Meeting: January 7, 2026

Bois Forte Tribal Council Special Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a Special meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held November 19, 2025, at Bois Forte RTG, Eagle Room, Nett Lake, Minnesota-Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Invocation done by Vern Adams.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present:

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the agenda with the removal of the Policy on use of vehicle for the BF Tribal Govt employees from Kim Greiner. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve RTC meeting minutes, regular session, from Special Meeting held November 5, 2025. Carried 4-0-0

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

- a) Cannabis compact between Bois Forte & State of MN 4-0-0

Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the contract with Keith Secola for the Rangers music tour as producer and performer. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve Resolution No. 41-2026, Lease modification for Gayle Littlewolf. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 42-2026, New Residential lease for Floyd Blaeser. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert

Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 43-2026, New Residential lease for Rory Wakemup. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the stop loss coverage for self insured medical insurance to Sun Life and authorizing the Chair to sign. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Tara Geshick; to adjourn at 9:37 a.m. Carried 4-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving
Approved at Regular RTC Meeting: January 7, 2026

Bois Forte Tribal Council Special Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a Special meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held December 17, 2025, at Bois Forte RTG, Eagle Room, Nett Lake, Minnesota-Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Invocation done by Vern Adams.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Melissa Wals, Angie Forsbert, Kim Greiner, Cody Swanson, Edward Chavers, Theresa Drift, Teri Morrison, Beverly Steel, David Morrison Jr., Doris Isham, Carol Burr, Vondalee Carr, Simona Benner, Chris Holm, Robbie Goggleye, Jaylen Strong, Miranda Lilya, Nikki Irving, Malita Spears.

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion on Representative II office.
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve RTC Meeting minutes, Regular session, special meeting held November 5, 2025.
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to table RTC meeting minutes, regular session, special meetings held October 1, 2025 and November 17, 2025 due to not being ready.
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- b) Duluth Urban office food assistance program-amended guidelines 4-0-0
- c) Change order no 3 for Nett Lake Wastewater improvements 4-0-0
- d) End phase I of financial contingency plan effective 11/15/2025 4-0-0
- e) Request to move live & disability insurance to Symetra 4-0-0
- f) Resolution No 44-2026, request to approve task order with SRF and approve the submission of HSIP grant. 4-0-0
- g) Wild rice donations to ENPs and Urban offices 4-0-0
- h) Contract with Valint Construction for Big Woods phase 2 4-0-0
- i) Statement-financial contingency plan

phase I end (11/15/2025) 4-0-0
Carried 4-0-0

Melissa Walls presents on the Together Overcoming Diabetes (TOD) Report. Presented outcomes of a multi-year diabetes and mental health intervention across 5 tribal communities. Boise Fort enrolled 11 families (22 individuals). COVID 19 heavily impacted enrollment and statistical power. Despite this, findings showed:

- High participant satisfaction (84% of adults)
- Evidence of improved mental health
- Continued use of stress management and wellness teachings

Data sovereignty emphasized; tribe owns all project data. Requested permission to share program reports with internal tribal programs (granted).

Pam Parson gives a compliance update.

- Major Concerns:
 - o Cybersecurity threats (ransomware, phishing, compromised credentials)
 - o Increasing staff training to reduce email-based risks
- Current work items:
 - o Completing 2025 policy & procedure reviews
 - o 2025 Security Risk Assessment
 - o Planning 2026 in-person HIPAA training
- Top monitored risks:
 - o Cybersecurity
 - o Billing & coding audit improvements (external audit in progress)
 - o Revenue operations workflow and policy improvements.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 45-2026, approving the BIA Cooperative agreement.
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 46-2026, approving the work order with SRF for the roundabout project (y-store).
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the update to the Bois Forte Safety Action Plan.
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve Resolution No. 47-2025, approving KLJ work order to complete feasibility study for Nett Lake evacuation route.
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve Resolution No. 48-2025, submission of grant application to EDA

under FY 2025 Disaster Supplemental notice of funding opportunity to fund construction of Bois Forte Workforce and Economic Development Center at 100% federal rate.
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the letter of support for Jaylen Strong to serve on the Voyagers National Parks Indigenous guidance committee.
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the payment for the Laser Fische contract.
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the 2026 Employee Christmas club match program.
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the new single health care premium at \$1,764.26.
Carried 4-0-0

Recess is taken at 11:08 a.m. - Reconvene at 11:14 a.m.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the FY 2023 Indirect Cost Proposal at 22.15% and authorizing chair to sign.
Carried 4-0-0

Discussion on IDC short fall.

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Tara Geshick; to table the policy on use of vehicles for BF Tribal Government Employees until further review by senior management.
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the Head Start Transportation policy.
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the partner agreement with the Food Group food bank.
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the Title III Grant amendment with Red Lake.
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the statement of work no 3 to services agreement with BCBSM.
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve Resolution No. 49-2026, the annual HUD mandated point in time and housing inventory counts data sharing with MN Tribal Collaborative and St. Louis County.
Carried 4-0-0

Recess taken at 12:01 p.m. - Reconvene at 12:11 p.m.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve Resolution No. 50-2026, approving the restated 125 plan, effective January 1, 2026.
Carried 4-0-0

Nominated by Carlos Hernandez; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Jeneal Goggleye to the MCT TEC Natural Resources Environment subcommittee.
Carried 3-0-1 (Jeneal Goggleye is silent)

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the Amerind Insurance policy for 2026 (renewal).
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to table the Bois Forte Housing Essential Family and Law Enforcement family policies until further revisions are made.
Carried 4-0-0

Discussion on whether District 2 Representative should relocate office to newly built Vermilion Public Works building.

- Original planning unclear; building funded and designed specifically for Public Works, Maintenance, Food Shelf, and Head Start bus.
 - Concerns about losing 105(l) reimbursement if non IHS/BIA staff occupy space.
 - Limited room: only 2 offices + 3 cubicles.
 - Suggestion to instead prioritize renovating the Vermilion Social Center as the long term RTC office space.
 - Representative Moyer requested cost estimates for comparison.
- Outcome: No vote; item to return at later meeting with cost analysis.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to adjourn at 12:49 p.m.
Carried 4-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving
Approved at Regular RTC Meeting: January 7, 2026