



# Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 50 NUMBER 5

## District 1 race candidates' letter

NETT LAKE— Please look to page 2 for candidate letters from incumbent Shane Drift and challenger Millie Holmes, who are vying to earn a four-year seat on the Bois Forte Tribal Council.

The general election takes place Tuesday, June 9.

There is another candidates' forum for all three races on May 20 in Nett Lake and May 21 in Vermilion.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. each night and a dinner will be served. Please watch the Bois Forte website and social media sites for more details as the dates get closer.

## Microgrids are important to Bois Forte's future

VERMILION SECTOR—It's never fun when the power goes out, but when that outage lasts longer than a few days, it can have devastating effects.

Not only does it start turning into a major inconvenience, but it can also create panic for those people who have lifesaving medications that need to be kept cold.

Hence, the reason Bois Forte Energy Director Amy Mason has been spending a lot of time learning about and pursuing financial backing for a microgrid that could literally be a lifesaver should our reservations ever face an extended power outage.

"Microgrids and energy storage can maximize the use of renewable energy sources to improve sustainability and energy sovereignty," said Mason, who has also been busy getting a solar farm project near the Y Store off the ground, in addition to a microgrid for both Vermilion and Nett Lake. "They help ensure critical services like healthcare facilities, shelters, and food resources are available during emergencies."

For the microgrid, Mason said part of Bois Forte's grant is to determine the buildings/services that we wish to try and cover so we can explore required infrastructure, energy generation resources, and energy storage to meet the needs as desired by the community.

Shortly after Mason started working for Bois Forte in



HEALTHY DISCUSSION— Bois Forte Energy Director Amy Mason enjoyed meeting with band members such as Archie Deegan, who stopped by to learn more about microgrids. The input received will be considered by Mason's team and presented at another community engagement meeting in September or early October. The meetings will take place in the Vermilion Sector and Nett Lake Sector.

2024, she conducted research into the feasibility of building a microgrid following the devastation the Seminole tribes in Florida experienced during Hurricane Irma in 2017.

Several reservations experienced long power outages that disrupted health services and government operations. Mason said generators were used, but they are not meant to run 24/7, so the tribes made

developing renewable energy and microgrids a top priority.

"The tribes said never again and began the process of constructing microgrids to keep essential services running during future storms or outages," said Mason at a recent community event she, along with Bois Forte Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Teresa Isham, hosted to get input from band members on

forging ahead with microgrid plans. "It also helped tribes reduce dependence on outside utilities, provided lower long-term energy costs, and moved them toward tribal energy sovereignty."

More locally, the White Earth reservation recently rolled out its Pine Elementary School Project, which involved

*See Microgrids on page 6*

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# Drift wants to continue serving the Bois Forte people

Howah! Boozho, Bois Forte Band Members!

I sincerely hope that you are doing well. The reason for this letter is that I am running for District I Representative. I am humbly asking for your support and vote in the upcoming general election on Tuesday, June 9th.



It has been an honor and a privilege serving you the Bois Forte Band Members as the District I Representative since 2018. We have accomplished a lot together, but our work is still not done.

If I am re-elected, I will work on the following: 1) Another increase to our 1854 per capita payments. 2) Establish our 1866 treaty rights. 3) Cannabis Growing Facility. 4) Cannabis payments for Band Members. 5) Dispensaries off the reservation. 6) Bois Forte to be

part of the helium project. 7) Helium payments for Band Members. 8) Protect our treaty rights, resources, areas. 9) Get Our Sacred Sites Listed and Protected. 10) Protect our wild rice on and off the reservation. 11) More Housing. 12) Put the Y Store land into trust. 13) Continue Building the Financial Reserves. 14) Establish new businesses. 15) Elders. 16) Language, culture, traditions, and roundhouse. 17) More funding for education, vocational/trade schools, apprenticeships. 18) Youth. 19) Protect our treaty areas. 20) Protect wild rice on and off the reservation.

I am sharing some of the things that I have pushed for since being in office: band members can watch our tribal elections live, quarterly financial updates during tribal council meetings, a resolution calling for the tribal council to hold a meeting regarding new business ventures, paid off the Y store loan ahead of schedule, pushed to put the Y Store land into trust, pushed to get rid of WELY radio and Kemper Sports, Bois

Forte descendant recognition.

I have voted in solidarity with the tribal council, I have been out voted, and I have stood alone on issues. I will continue to ask questions and address the tough issues. I take my job duties and responsibilities as the District I Representative very seriously.

My commitment and dedication to you, the Bois Forte Band Members, have always been and will continue to be unwavering. The Bois Forte Band Members have always been at the center of my decision making.

On a personal note, I have two wonderful grown children JessieAnne and Sean. They are both in college at UMD.

I have been alcohol and drug free for over 33 years. I serve with our Am-

balance Service and Fire Department.

Once again, I am humbly asking you for your support and vote in the upcoming Bois Forte general election on Tuesday, June 9th. If you have any questions, concerns, ideas, or suggestions please feel free to call me on my personal cell phone at 218-750-2552. I sincerely hope that I will be able to continue serving you as the District I Representative for the next four years. Mii'iw miigwech!

Sincerely,

Shane Drift,

Candidate for District I Representative

## Holmes wants unity for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

Ahniin, all. I am Niiganabiik, Mildred Holmes being my English name, Makwa Doodem (Bear Clan) and Ogichidakwe (Jingle Dress dancer) of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. I have two sons, both of whom I am proud to have loved all their lives. My parents were Marjorie Wakemup Holmes and Axel J Holmes Sr. My grandparents are John and Mabel Soreyes Wakemup of Bois Forte Band and Henry and Rachael Chase Holmes of St. Croix Band.



I filed for District I Representative because of my interest in what happens with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitutional Convention and the effects it will have on all of us. I've served on the MCT Constitutional Reform Committee as a Delegate since 2018. I've attended TEC meetings as the Bois Forte Delegates and have worked with many of the other Delegates from all

the reservations.

My hope for the future of the Bois Forte Band, all members and their families wherever they may be enrolled is that we stand together in overcoming obstacles to our unity as a tribe.

My concern for Elders and the limbo we seem to have landed in is one I dearly want to address in the coming years. I want to see the Elders having their activities once again. I've worked with Elders since I was a struggling parent raising two sons and received much direction, advice and help from my Elders.

Chii-miigwitch, friends and relatives, for your support in my endeavor to walk the path my great grandparents envisioned for me. I ask for your support of my campaign and for your vote on June 9, 2026.

Keep an eye out for flyers of Meet and Greet I will be having in the coming weeks leading up to the casting of votes on June 9, 2026.

Mii'ew. Giigawabimin Noongom.

Mildred "Millie" Holmes

### General election takes place Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>

The Regular Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Election of the BOIS FORTE Reservation Business Committee a/k/a Tribal Council will be held on June 9, 2026, to fill the following positions:

**ELECTION DATE:** June 9, 2026

#### **POLLING PLACES:**

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

Tara Geshick \*Incumbent

David C. Morrison, Sr.

#### **CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT I COMMITTEEPERSON – 4 Year Term**

Shane Drift \*Incumbent

Mildred R. Holmes

#### **CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT II COMMITTEEPERSON – 4 Year Term**

Alanna K. Sherman

Robert Moyer Jr. \*Incumbent

For more information on the election, please visit [www.boisforte.com](http://www.boisforte.com)

# Save the date for a community health day!

NETT LAKE—Bois Forte Diabetes Educator Melissa Hawk is pleased to invite Bois Forte band members and all departments to a Community Health Day on Wednesday, June 17.

The event runs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Eagle room at the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Government (RTG) Building.

Hawk said that this Community Health Day is designed to bring together resources, services, and education that support the physical, mental, and spiritual health of our community members.

“The event will include health screenings, wellness information,

cultural activities, and opportunities to connect individuals with local programs and services,” wrote Hawk in a letter posted on social media and other outlets. “We believe that collaboration among departments is essential to strengthening the health of our community. Your participation would help ensure that attendees are aware of the valuable services and support available through the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.”

Hawk said Bois Forte RTG Departments are invited to host a table, share resources, or participate in any way that aligns with your work.

“Please confirm your department’s

participation by May 30th and let us know if you will be hosting a table, providing services, or sharing materials,” wrote Hawk. “This is also open to community members who would like to have a booth with their goods, so please share with anyone who might be interested!”

For more information, please reach out to Hawk via phone at 218-757-3650 or email at [melissa.hawk@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:melissa.hawk@boisforte-nsn.gov)

“Thank you for your continued

commitment to the well-being of our community,” wrote Hawk, who added that people can also reach out to her peers, Corinne Whiteman and David Morrison, Jr. for additional assistance.

Whiteman can be reached via phone 218-757-3295 or email ([corinne.whiteman@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:corinne.whiteman@boisforte-nsn.gov)), while Morrison can be reached via phone 218-757-0087 or email ([dmorrisonjr@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:dmorrisonjr@boisforte-nsn.gov))

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BOIS FORTE**

## VERMILION BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

**MAY 16**      **SATURDAY 10AM**

Free Shirts for participant  
Free throw and 3 point Contest.

To register a team or questions call or text Earl Vilsbrun @ 218-750-0989.

This event is a drug, alcohol, and commercial tobacco-free  
Event sponsored by:

**mi DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**BlueCross BlueShield Minnesota**

**Center for Prevention**

Blue Cross® and Blue Shield® of Minnesota and Blue Plus® are nonprofit independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

## Biindigen Welcome

### Sixth Judicial District Public Defender's Office

Vermillion Social Center  
1610 Farm Road S Tower, MN 55790  
Wednesday May 27, 2026 10:00 - 2:00

- 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](mailto:daniel.lew@pubdef.state.mn.us)



# Peterson found guilty of criminal vehicular homicide

DULUTH – Defendant Eric Peterson, 51, of Virginia, has been found guilty of one count of criminal vehicular homicide in the death of Amanda Boshey following a four-day trial, announced U.S. Attorney Daniel N. Rosen.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Garrett S. Fields and David M. Classen prosecuted the case.

As of press time, Peterson had not been sentenced, but as previously reported, this charge carries a maximum prison sentence of 10 years and a maximum fine of \$20,000. Because the accident occurred on the Vermilion Reservation, the FBI took the lead on the case.

Peterson struck and killed the 38-year-old Boshey on December 17 when driving along Lake Vermilion Reservation Road near the Fortune Bay Resort Casino on the Bois Forte Indian Reservation. Peterson hit Boshey, who

was walking on foot, shortly after he left the casino. He later contended that he believed he had hit a deer and kept driving. In convicting Peterson, the federal jury concluded that he was driving his vehicle negligently while under the influence of alcohol.

According to a Department of Justice news release, following a four-day trial before the Honorable Judge Laura M. Provinzino, the jury returned a guilty verdict on count one, which charged Peterson with criminal vehicular homicide in a negligent manner while under the influence of alcohol.

Peterson was acquitted on count two, which charged Peterson with criminal vehicular homicide while having a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 or more as measured within two hours of the time of driving for the same fatality.

The latter did not sit well with

Boshey's family.

"We are having a hard time dealing with the fact that Criminal Vehicular Homicide with a BAC was dropped, said Boshey's mother, Kimberly Day. "While our attorneys had a forensic expert explaining how they came up with his BAC to be 1.07-2.04 at 8:48 p.m., and his BAC was still .044 at around 5 a.m.-5:30am, his attorney flipped numbers to confuse the jury, discredited the highway patrol on the tests they perform to see if a person is under the influence, etc. That was very frustrating."

Day said the family is also having a hard time dealing with the fact that Peterson was set free after the verdict was reached and added that it might be another two to three months before Peterson is sentenced.

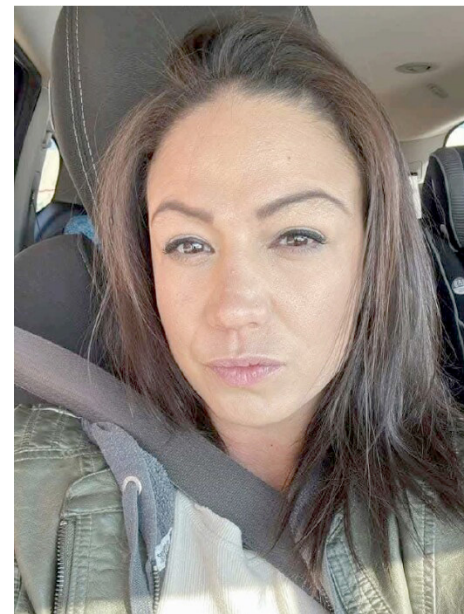
"He did not have any assets or vehicle insurance," said Day. "We were unable to sue him or his insurance to help with the cost of the funeral, headstone, or provide financial assistance to her children."

In order to honor Amanda's legacy, Day said that the family has a GoFundMe (<https://gofund.me/34517f051>) started to help pay for a headstone. She added that it is a heartfelt cause that is very important to the family.

"It's a difficult time, and the family is struggling to cover the costs on their own," said Day, who added that \$2,400 has been raised, but \$4,212 is needed. "The funeral home requires full payment before they can order the headstone, and every contribution, no matter how small, will help us reach that goal. Amanda deserves a lasting tribute, and your support can make that possible. Please consider donating to help us honor her memory with a beautiful headstone. Thank you for your kindness and generosity."

FBI Minneapolis Division Special Agent in Charge Christopher D. Dotson said his department would like to extend our condolences to Ms. Boshey's family and the Bois Forte community.

"Justice for Ms. Boshey's tragic death would not have been possible



TRAGIC ENDING— Bois Forte band member Amanda Boshey was struck and killed by Virginia resident Eric Peterson on December 17, 2024. Boshey left behind five children. A GoFundMe (<https://gofund.me/34517f051>) has been set up to pay for a headstone for Boshey.

without substantial assistance from our tribal, local, and state law enforcement partners," said Dotson in the DOJ release. "We hope that holding the defendant accountable for their recklessness will provide some sense of justice for those who are forever impacted by this loss."

This case is the result of an investigation conducted by the FBI, aided by the BCA, the Minnesota State Patrol, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Nett Lake Tribal Police Department, the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, and the Virginia Police Department. The coordination of resources between these law enforcement agencies was imperative to the swift identification and apprehension of Peterson and the ultimate resolution of this case.

At the time of her death, Boshey was working as a laborer for Whitebird

*See Homicide on page 5*

2026 ELECTION ELECTION

8PM START  
06/09/2026



Microsoft Teams  
Meeting ID: 283 543 355 638 94  
Passcode: nz2ka3Cz

Each Polling District will be live starting with Mpls-Urban at 8:05 followed by Duluth-Urban, Vermilion and then Nett Lake

LIVE BALLOT COUNT

# Chavers discusses Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution reform

*Guest column by Cathy Chavers*

Boozhoo! This is the first article on Constitution reform for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) that I will be writing for the Bois Forte News to help keep our band members up to date on this very important issue.

It is best to start at the beginning of how the MCT became who we are, from the past to today. Everyone states that tribes are sovereign nations, which we are; however, there is a relationship in the governance of the MCT and the United States Government.

Tribes are sovereign nations but are subject to federal oversight. Below is a visual representation of the structure that tribes must comply with:

## **UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

### **President**

- Has a trust responsibility to uphold treaty rights and agreements.

### **Congress**

Congress has “plenary power” over Indian affairs. It has the authority to regulate, legislate, and manage matters relating to Native American tribes.

### **Department of the Interior (DOI)/ Secretary of the Interior SOI**

DOI oversees federal relations with tribes, while the SOI is the principal

federal official responsible for tribal affairs, such as approving tribal constitutions and governing documents, managing trust land and resources, and implementing federal laws and policies affecting tribes.

### **Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)**

A federal agency within DOI, the BIA manages certain tribal assets and resources, such as land titles, natural resources, and financial assets held in trust by the US government. Along with financial management, legal advocacy, and support services.

### **Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT)**

- The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) is listed as Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) in the Federal Register. (Where tribes are recognized in the federal government system). It is important to know that each of the MCT members **IS NOT LISTED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER INDIVIDUALLY**.

**Bois Forte, Grand Portage,  
Fond Du Lac, Mille Lacs, Leech Lake,  
and White Earth.**

As you can see, the tribes do have oversight in the federal government system. Back in the early 1900s the BIA and another individual drafted the

MCT Constitution. This is the Constitution that we are abiding by today, with some amendments.

One thing the MCT agrees on is that the current Constitution was not written by us, native people, and that we need to write our own Constitution. With six tribes under this Constitution, there can be varying ideas on what that should be.

Current Constitution reform is happening now. Each MCT member is currently working on Constitution reform. It is a long process that needs members’ input!

You will notice that Red Lake is not listed; Red Lake opted out of joining the MCT back in the early 1900s. They recently revised their Constitution, but the process has lasted about four years.

The MCT Constitution governs us regarding election processes, enrollment criteria, members’ rights, etc. When we talk about changing tribal enrollment, we do not have the authority to do so under the Constitution. We would need the Secretary of the Interior to approve or disapprove any changes

to the Constitution. Each MCT tribe cannot do what it wants regarding enrollment, even though we are sovereign.

For example, let’s say we develop a change in the Constitution, such as removing the Secretary of the Interior from our process. To make changes, the MCT would have to hold a Secretarial Election of the entire MCT membership 18 and over to vote on any changes, and we need a certain percentage (30%) of voters to approve the change. The other thing to think about is that the Secretary of the Interior is the check and balances for tribes. If they are not there, then who or what will replace this?

There is a lot to learn about the MCT Constitution, but we want to provide education to our members so they understand that when the changes come, we will need all MCT members to vote on it, or nothing will happen if we do not meet that 30% criteria.

**Note: Chavers is the former Bois Forte Tribal Chair, who is now working for Mesabi Metallics as its tribal liaison.**

## **Homicide from page 4**

Services out of Local 1091. Her hobbies included shopping, going out with her family, and being involved in her recovery community.

According to family members, Amanda was a Leo and always made a point of letting people know. She always loved lions because of it. Boshey always had something goofy to say, no matter her situation.

Family said Boshey’s five kids were her pride and joy even when they weren’t living with her. Her smile was contagious, and her laugh was as well. Shopping was her getaway — she always wanted to buy something for her family and friends, even when they didn’t ask for it. She was always there for family

and always had some way to help.

In addition to the GoFund Me to help pay for Amanda’s headstone, Day said the family will also be hosting a taco sale on Friday, May 8, from 11 a.m. until they are gone.

Local delivery on the Vermilion Sector will be provided, or you can stop by Dale Boshey’s residence at 1596 Farm Point Road to pick up a taco, plus a pop or water for \$8. You can call in your order by dialing 218-235-4346 or 218-780-9466.

“We would like to thank everybody who has donated, shared the GoFund-Me, and kept us in their prayers as it does mean a lot to us,” said Day.

## **Congratulations to Brian Whiteman, Jr.!**



**NEW JOB!**— Officer Brian Whiteman, Jr. was recently sworn in as a new Bois Forte Tribal Police Officer by Chief Judge Megan Treuer. Best of luck in your new job, Brian!

*Microgrids from page 1*

installing 480kW of solar power, now providing 100% of the school's energy. According to a handout Mason had on display, the solar unit, combined with battery backup, has allowed the school to become a beacon of resilience, capable of maintaining power even when the broader grid goes down.

That would be the end goal for Mason, provided that she is successful in finding funding sources to make that possible. She said it is way too early to estimate the costs of a microgrid until more direction

from the community is provided.

In the interim, she held community events in both the Vermilion Sector and Nett Lake Sector to get input from band members on how they would handle an extended power outage and what those plans would look like. Mason had several large writing tablets with several questions written on them so attendees could share their experiences.

Some of those questions ranged from asking what they do when the power goes out for one day, three days, one week or more than a week; what services have you or your friends used or tried to use in an

emergency and what that experience was like; to what basic needs would be compromised for you (or your friends and family living in the community) if the power goes out for one day, three days, one week and more than a week.

“What does this look like for you? What is your thought process? Do you leave town, stay in town, or shelter in place? What is your plan?” asked Mason hypothetically.

All were great questions and made attendees think as they filled in their answers to the questions written on the tablets, because until our area experiences an extended power outage, they are not something many of us worry about.

“This community engagement event showed that we would be able to keep the lights on through disaster situations, reducing energy costs for residents, and ways to generate revenue utilizing solar buyback programs,” said Nett Lake C Store Manager Jeff Mattson, who attended the Vermilion Sector meeting. “Involving the community and companies like Northspan is a great way to get the data that our energy and emergency department needs to put these plans into action. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to be a part of the discussion and hopefully see these plans come to life sooner than later.”

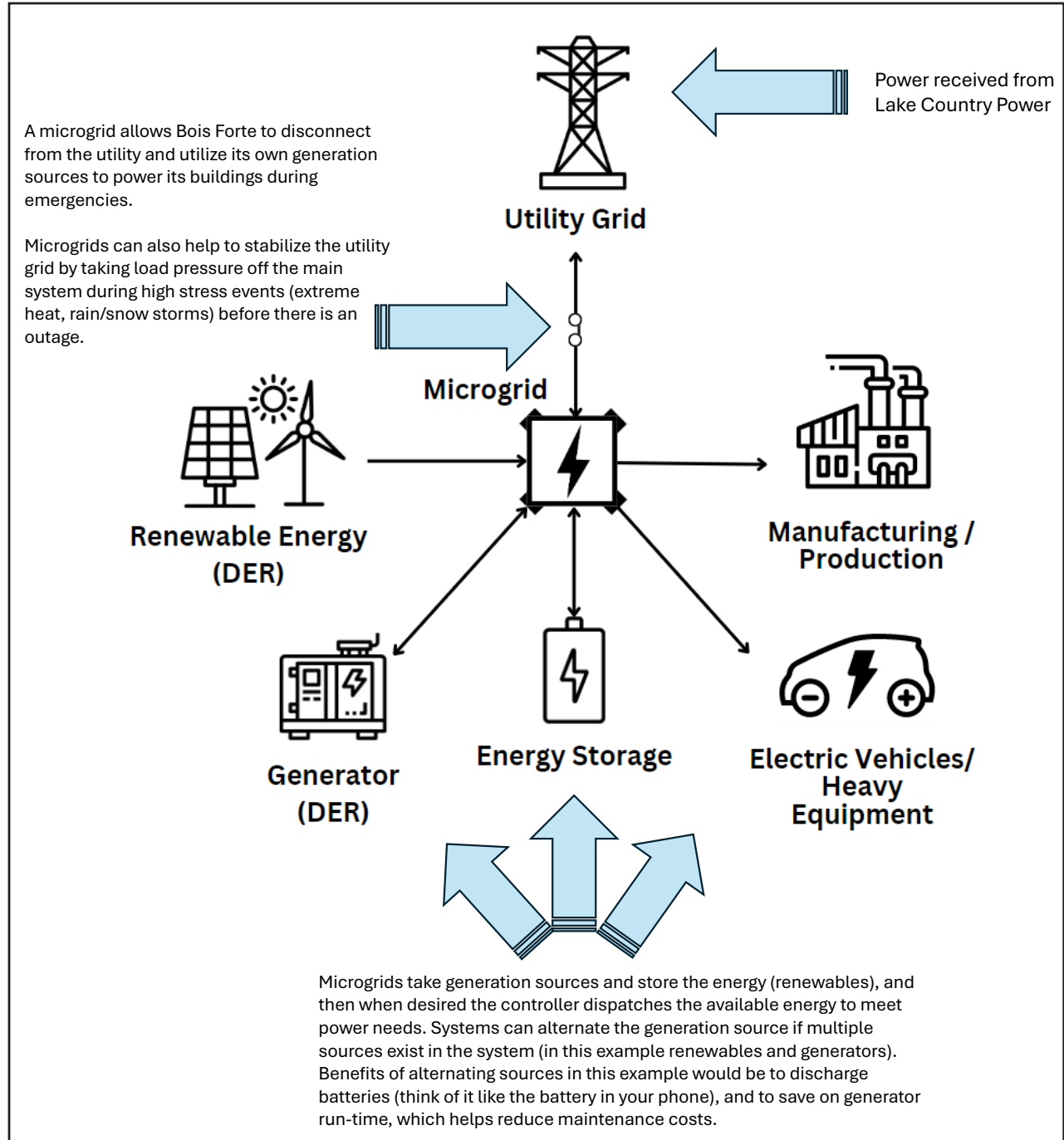
Mason said a grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce helped kick off the community engagement events. Support was also received from Northspan through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Tribal Technical Assistance program.

“We're trying to get feedback from the communities, asking them what power outages look like to them and what direction they would like to go with this,” said Mason. “Do they want a single building or an emergency center, or do we want to look at covering services and at what percentage? Do they want to run the clinics at 100% or do they just want to run it two days a week—we're trying to look at what's important to our communities.”

Mason said the plan is to produce two reports for each sector of the reservation and give them the option of a one-building or a multiple-building system, based on the feedback received.

“And then we'll do another community engagement in September or early October and then present the proposals,” said Mason. “The community can vote on them, and whatever the community decides is the microgrid they are most interested in is the direction we go until I find the right funding pool to make this happen.”

**HOW IT ALL WORKS - The graphic to the left shows how microgrids could work for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.**



# AJC presents 7 Grandfather Teachings artwork to Bois Forte

NETT LAKE—During a facility site visit to tour the Arrowhead Juvenile Center (AJC) in Duluth, Bois Forte Tribal Court staff admired various clay artwork that was seen hanging on the walls throughout the facility, especially the 7 Grandfather Teachings art.

All the art there has been created by the juvenile residents of AJC. They

have an art program there that allows residents to be creative during their stay at AJC.

On April 17, 2026, during the Arrowhead Regional Corrections (ARC) board meeting, AJC Division Director Wendy Skottegard-Burke presented Bois Forte Judicial Director Melissa Wright and MN Department of Correc-

tions Tribal Liaison Wendy Spry with a handmade 7 Grandfather Teachings artwork that was made by several juvenile residents of AJC.

Bois Forte and ARC continue to work collaboratively to provide much needed resources to relatives involved in the justice system both on the reservation and off.

“Tribal Court is very grateful to the residents for this beautiful piece of art and say Chi- Miigwech,” said Wright. “We will be proudly displaying this within our Tribal Court building.”



GRATEFUL FOR THE DONATION— AJC Division Director Wendy Skottegard-Burke, left, presented Bois Forte Judicial Director Melissa Wright, center, and MN Department of Corrections Tribal Liaison Wendy Spry, right, with a handmade 7 Grandfather Teachings artwork that was made by several juvenile residents of AJC.

## Memorial Day closing

In honor of Memorial Day, the Bois Forte Tribal Government offices will be closed on Monday, May 25th. This includes all tribal government departments and both clinics. Thank you and please keep our Ogichidaa (veterans), who gave the ultimate sacrifice, in your prayers.

**C-STORE**  
218-757-3268

**Y-STORE**  
218-753-3868

## JOIN US FOR A HIBBING COMMUNITY CONNECT

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Hibbing Memorial Building  
400 E 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Hibbing, MN 55746

### EVENT DETAILS

Free Meal, Hygiene Items, Housing Supports, Older Adult Resources, Child & Family Resources, Health Insurance Services, Mental Health Resources, Substance Use Disorder Resources, Warrant Resolution, Vaccine & Disease Education, and more!

### TRANSPORTATION

Arrowhead Transit will provide free rides to and from the event on existing bus routes.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
St. Louis County, MN

# Hernandez sees a promising future for Bois Forte

VERMILION SECTOR—Despite his lofty title, Bois Forte Tribal Chair Carlos Hernandez comes across as humble as anyone in his role could be.

He's well-spoken, thoughtful, engaging, and knows that it truly does take a village to raise a kid, or in this case, it takes a total team effort to get things done for the betterment of all band members.

Such was his message at the 2026 State of the Band, which took place in early March at Fortune Bay Resort

Casino.

"Miigwech for being here tonight and for continuing to stay engaged in the work of our nation," said Hernandez, who officially took office last July to fill out the rest of former Chair Cathy Chavers' term. "When our people take time to listen, ask questions, and participate in our community, it strengthens our government and strengthens our future."

Hernandez said that when he stepped into his role, he knew the

responsibility of serving as chairman was not about one person—it was about working together as a council, supporting our employees, and always remembering that we serve the people of the Bois Forte band.

He took time to graciously thank tribal employees across every department—whom he called dedicated people who show up every day to serve our community—whether they work in health services, education, natural resources, public works, administration, or at Fortune Bay.

"Their work keeps our nation moving forward," said Hernandez. "Many of the accomplishments we talk about tonight are possible because of their commitment and professionalism."

In order to get all operations moving in the right direction, Hernandez said it was vitally important to improve communication between leadership and the community. He added that people had asked for transparency for years and for opportunities to under-

stand what their leadership team is working on.

"That request is fair, and it is important," stressed Hernandez. "We have been working to improve communication through updates and conversations with community members... Community works best when people feel informed and when leadership is willing to hear the voices of the community."

He added that the tribal council has also worked hard to strengthen communication within our own government, because when departments communicate with one another, and leadership communicates clearly with staff—our entire organization functions better.

"Another important change we have been working on is strengthening the culture within our tribal government," said Hernandez.

He recounted that, for many years,

*See Hernandez on page 12*



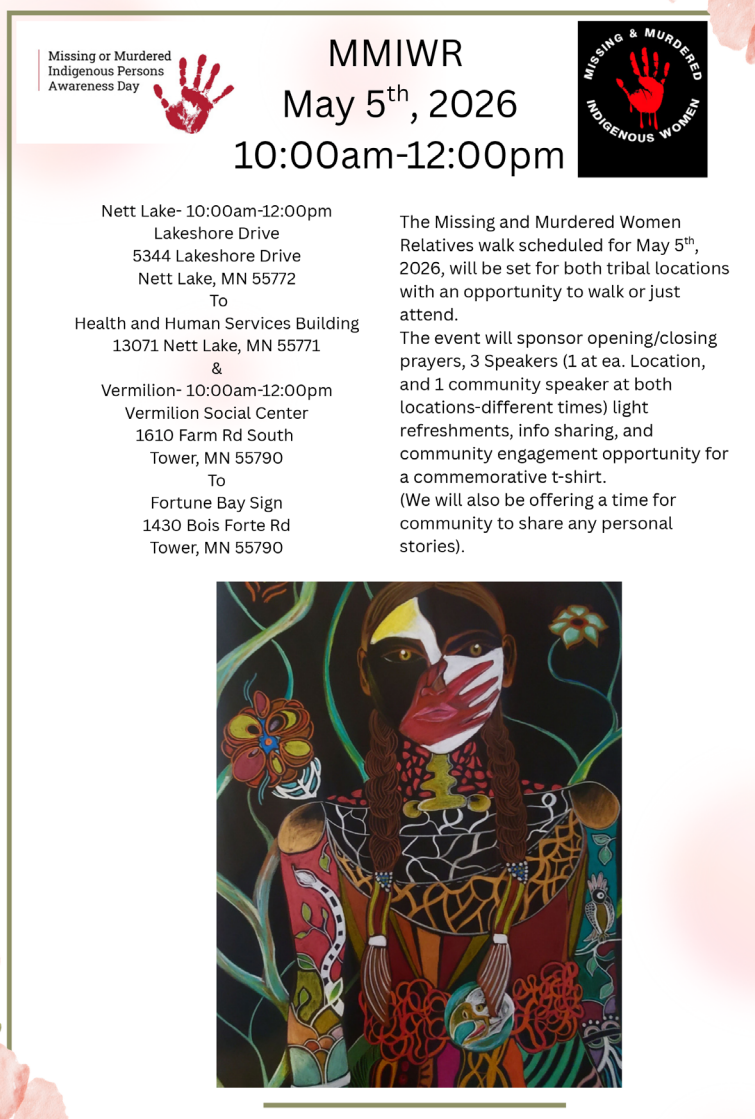
**COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR**

Date: June 17, 2026  
Time: 10am-2pm  
Location: Eagle Room at the RTC

What to expect:

- All Health & Human Services programs
- Community resource booths
- Free health screenings (A1C, Blood Pressure checks)
- Wellness & prevention information
- Family & Community supportive services
- LUNCH PROVIDED

Open to all community members!



Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day

**MMIWR**  
May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
10:00am-12:00pm

Nett Lake- 10:00am-12:00pm  
Lakeshore Drive  
5344 Lakeshore Drive  
Nett Lake, MN 55772  
To  
Health and Human Services Building  
13071 Nett Lake, MN 55771  
&  
Vermilion- 10:00am-12:00pm  
Vermilion Social Center  
1610 Farm Rd South  
Tower, MN 55790  
To  
Fortune Bay Sign  
1430 Bois Forte Rd  
Tower, MN 55790

The Missing and Murdered Women Relatives walk scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, will be set for both tribal locations with an opportunity to walk or just attend. The event will sponsor opening/closing prayers, 3 Speakers (1 at ea. Location, and 1 community speaker at both locations-different times) light refreshments, info sharing, and community engagement opportunity for a commemorative t-shirt. (We will also be offering a time for community to share any personal stories).



# Minute with Millie



The months have flown by since my sister journeyed on. I've not realized how big a part she had in my life. Ya know the saying "You never know what you had til it's gone?"

I am so glad she was stickler for taking pictures. I look at a few and see the ones her son's been posting over to the

"you know where." I chuckle and outright laugh at some of the memories they bring up.

In looking at one, I get memories of others crowding through my mind's eye. All the way back to our childhood.

Those inevitably bring up thoughts of my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Thoughts of all the fun times, the not so fun times and I feel the bond of love wrapping around me once again.

When my Auntie Allie journeyed on, we were struck as a family, that we're the top generation now. Working on the third generation down from us. The third generation

behind us provides strength, love and a secure base for us as a family.

I do hope all of us have memories to buoy us up during the month of memorials. It's not just the Veteran's who've given their all for us.

# Sah Gii Bah Gah

**Pow-Wow**  
**June 5, 6, 7, 2026**  
**Nett Lake, Mn.**

**Host Drum Gaagigaikwe**  
**Co Host Drum Bois Forte Singers**  
**Invited Drums Agency One,**  
**Lake Vermilion**

**Spiritual Advisor - Danny Geshick**  
**MC - Terry Goodsky**  
**Arena Director - Nate Tibbetts**

**Friday**  
**5pm - Opening Ceremony**  
**6pm - Welcome Feast**

**Other Specials**  
**Bells Only**  
**Potato Dance**  
**50/50 Raffle**  
**Pow - Wow Committee Raffle**

**Saturday**  
**Breakfast 7-9am**  
**Grand Entry - 1pm**  
**Royalty Cornation**  
**Regalia Giveaway**  
**Dinner - 5pm**  
**Walk/Run Event during dinner break**  
**Grand Entry - 7pm**  
**Goodsky Jingle Dress Special**

**Vendor Information -**  
**Derek Morrison 218-994-9405**  
**General Information -**  
**Teresa Isham 218-750-7632**  
**Ashley Goodsky 218-248-0780**  
**Camping Available**

**Sunday**  
**Breakfast 7-9 am**  
**Family Games & Benner Show 10-12**  
**Grand Entry 1pm**  
**Dinner - 5pm**  
**Bike Giveaway**

**Any one inquiring about having a ceremony is to see Dan Geshick on Friday. Ceremonies are to be done by noon on Saturday & Sunday**

**Drug and Alcohol-Free Event**

Here is the Elder Nutrition Program's menu for the month of May. 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.

## ELDERS MEETING

**May 12th 2PM**  
**Elders activity immediately following**

**May 1:** Hot Turkey/Biscuit, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Veggie  
**May 4:** BBQ Pork/WW Bun, Chef's Choice Potato, Cole Slaw, Fruit  
**May 5:** Grilled Chicken Breast, Rice Pilaf, Italian Veggie Blend, Fruit  
**May 6:** Wild Rice Meatballs, Mashed/Gravy, Corn, Fruit  
**May 7:** Cobb Salad, Dressing, Whole Fruit  
**May 8:** Cheeseburger/WW Bun, Let/tom/pickle/onion, Fries, Fruit  
**May 11:** Chicken Noodle Soup, Dinner Roll, Whole Fruit  
**May 12:** Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed/Gravy, Veggie, Fruit. ELDERS MEETING 2PM  
**May 13:** Beef Enchilada/tortilla, Spanish Rice/Black Beans, Fruit

## May 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	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

**May 14:** Chef Salad, Dressing, Whole Fruit  
**May 15:** Meat Sauce/Pasta, Veggie, Garlic Bread, Fruit  
**May 18:** Beef Stroganoff, Noodles, Green Beans, Fruit  
**May 19:** Baked Chicken, Chef's Choice Potato, Peas & Carrots, Fruit  
**May 20:** Pork Chow Mein, Rice Blend, Stir Fry Veggies, Fruit  
**May 21:** Chicken Ceaser Salad, Dressing, Whole Fruit  
**May 22:** Roast Beef, Baby Reds, Veggie, Fruit  
**May 25:** Baked Pork Chop, Roasted Baby Reds, Italian Veggie Blend, Fruit  
**May 26:** Baked Ham, Potato Salad, Glazed Carrots, Fruit  
**May 27:** Grilled Chicken Breast, Rice Pilaf, Italian Veggie Blend, Fruit  
**May 28:** Italian Salad, Dressing, Whole Fruit  
**May 29:** Stir Fry Chicken, Veggies, Egg Roll, Fruit

# Bois Forte Obituaries

## KAREY MARLENE LYON



Karey Marlene Lyon, whose Ojibwe name was Giizhibaa-gwanekwe, passed away at age 73 on March 3, 2026, at Sanford Hospital in Bemidji, Minnesota.

Karey was born on July 1, 1952, in International Falls, Minnesota. She later made her home in Bemidji, Minnesota and was an enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. Karey dedicated her life to caring for others. Her journey in health care began when she was a

young girl working as a candy striper at the hospital. That early experience inspired a lifelong path of service. She went on to become a nurse practitioner and later retired from the Leech Lake Health Division, where she served her community with compassion and dedication. Karey loved visiting with family and friends. She enjoyed shopping, singing, reading, and watching old movies. She also had a special love for her dog, BayLee, who was always close to her side. More than anything, Karey cherished time spent with her children, grandchildren, sister, and great-grandchildren.

Karey was preceded in death by her parents, McKinnon Ostby; Arnt and Ruth Thompson; her husbands, John Lyon and Jerry Good; her son, Rick Lyon; her granddaughter, Kelcie

Greene-Lyon; her brothers, Mick Ostby, David Ostby, and Richard Ostby; her niece, Cristina Grover; and her nephew, Nicholas Ostby.

She is survived by her children, Michael Good (Sarah), Paul Payne (GloriaDian), Michael Ridle, Bode Moore, Jerry Good, Cindy Hansmann (Brian), Rebecca Stochl (Daniel), Tracy Lindberg (Randy), Shannon Lyon (Ben), Stacie Lyon (J.R.), Kelli Terrell (Chris), and Sandra Kuchma (Marc). She is survived by her siblings, Conrad Larson, Kathleen (Wilfred) Carriveau, David Good (Aster), Judy Baldwin (Dave), and Lori Musatov (Kurt). She is also survived by many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Karey held special friendships with Tina and Tommy Edberg as well as Ro-

berta Decker. She shared a close bond with her cousin Shirley Bradley, and chosen family, Rhonda Shoberg-Conn, and ShannaLee Horvik. Karey will be remembered for her caring heart, her laughter, and her ability to see the beauty and goodness in all people, in all living beings. Her life was devoted to helping others, and her memory will live on in the many lives she touched.

A celebration of life was held at noon on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at the Leech Lake Tribal College Drum Room in Cass Lake with Nancy Kingbird as spiritual leader. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

Arrangements provided by Whispering Pines Funeral & Cremation Service, serving Northern Minnesota.

## LESLIE DONALD EMERY

Funeral services will be held for Leslie Donald Emery at the Nett Lake Baptist Church on Monday, June 22 at 11 a.m.

Emery will then be laid to rest next to his wife, Loretta O'Leary Emery, in

the Bois Forte Cemetery just outside the Nett Lake Village.

Family and friends are invited to attend the services. If you have any questions, please call Shari Lynn Farimond at 858-354-7127.

## Bois Forte Tribal Court is looking for the following individuals:

If your name is on this list, Tribal Court is looking for you and needs your updated contact information in order to address your current past due court matters.

If you know someone on this list, please help us get the message to them!

Leon Eugene Chosa  
Lisa Ann Goldsworthy  
Ryan Scott Gogleye  
Christopher Allen Hunt  
Liberty Lynn Isham  
Lisa Kay Kleven  
Kane Charles Bonga  
Angelique Jo Brown  
Donovan Wade Moose

Jace Matthew Olson  
Christopher Ellis Pearce  
Brianna Patrice Lucille Sheffield  
Gerald Lee Urban  
Donald Lee Wiggins Jr.  
Benjamin Thomas Spears  
Brayden Bradly Shultz

Call the Tribal Court during business hours Monday- Friday 8-4:30 p.m. at 218-757-3462 to update your current mailing address and contact information or you can email us at [bfcourt@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:bfcourt@boisforte-nsn.gov)

If you have a story idea for the Bois Forte News, please call Brian at 218-753-7882 or email [bkanderson@fortunebay.com](mailto:bkanderson@fortunebay.com)

Now **HIRING**



For a list of current job opportunities,

go to: [www.boisforte.com/jobs](http://www.boisforte.com/jobs)

# Ghost Lake: Indigenous-led short film begins production at Fortune Bay

VERMILION SECTOR— Production is set to begin this May on Ghost Lake, a Native-led short film written and directed by Ojibwe filmmaker Ginew Benton, addressing the devastating impact of the fentanyl crisis in Indigenous communities.

Fiscal sponsor Waawaate Programs (501c3) is seeking additional tax-deductible donations to provide vital funding to get through production confidently.

Set on reservation land in northern Minnesota, Ghost Lake follows a reclusive Ojibwe hunter and a tribal police officer as they uncover a drug smuggling operation after the overdose death of a young boy. As the investigation deepens, the story becomes a powerful exploration of grief, accountability, and the struggle to protect the community in the face of systemic neglect.

The film is deeply personal for Benton, who first conceived the story after losing a close friend to fentanyl-laced drugs. Since then, Ghost Lake has grown into a community-driven project rooted in lived experience and cultural responsibility.

Ghost Lake features a standout

Indigenous-led cast, including acclaimed actor Gary Farmer (Reservation Dogs, Dead Man), alongside Che Jim and Renee Boehm. The production is being filmed in collaboration with the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, with a commitment to hiring local crew and engaging Indigenous youth in the film-making process.

“This film comes from a place of loss, but also responsibility,” says Benton. “We’re telling a story that too many of our communities are living through right now. It’s about truth, but also about healing.”

Benton is an Ojibwe filmmaker, artist, and cultural educator whose work blends traditional Anishinaabe storytelling with contemporary cinema. His previous films, including Looking Glass, Mirror Man, and The Dim, have screened at festivals such as BendFilm and the Miami International Science Fiction Festival, as well as regional fests like the Ely Film Festival.

In 2025, Benton was awarded the Vision Maker Media Creative Shorts Fellowship to develop and direct Ghost Lake, further establishing his voice as a rising force in Indigenous cinema. The production has worked closely with

the Upper Midwest Film Office to secure pre-approval for film production tax rebate programs provided by both Saint Louis County and Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation.

Production will take place May 9–14, 2026, with rehearsals beginning May 8, on and around the

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa’s Lake Vermilion Reservation. The production is honored to partner with Fortune Bay Resort Casino, whose strong financial support helps accommodate the film on location.

This production is a community effort. Local film producer Jacob White says, “I’ve contributed over 350 hours since June 2025 to help bring Ginew’s vision to life. We are urgently seeking

partners who can provide additional funding to support this important project. We need your help today.”

Ghost Lake is fiscally sponsored by Waawaate Programs, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization leading outreach efforts tied to the film. Through screenings, youth engagement, and community dialogue, the project aims to extend its impact far beyond the screen.

The production is currently seeking additional support to complete funding and expand its outreach efforts, with all contributions directly supporting Indigenous cast, crew, and community initiatives.

## Waaginogaan Building & Anishinaabe Cultural Camp

JUNE 22, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2026

1500 BOIS FORTE RD. TOWER MN

On behalf of Bois Forte Heritage Center, we invite the community to attend our two week wigwam build and cultural day camp. Lunch is served daily, unless planned dinner.

218-235-9891

JESSICA.ANDERSON@BOISFORTE-NSN.GOV

## 2026 BOIS FORTE COMMUNITY CLEANUP

### COLLECTION AREAS AND DATES:

Nett Lake Village: May 4 - May 18

Hwy 65 – Palmquist: May 19 - May 26

Sugarbush-Indian Point: May 28 - June 4

Vermilion: June 4 - June 18

### Please separate materials by type as follows:

- Wood
- Metal (all types)
- Mattresses
- Tires (with or without rims)
- Appliances
- Televisions

ONLY LEAVE ITEMS IN CATEGORIES LISTED ABOVE. NO GARBAGE, PLEASE.

After collection dates listed above, collection areas will be photographed and recorded as finished. No materials placed after the end date listed above will be collected for disposal.

Please Contact Frank Villebrun, Environmental Programs Manager, at Bois Forte Environmental Services ([fvillebrun@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:fvillebrun@boisforte-nsn.gov) or call 218-757-3261 ext. 307) if you have questions about this service.

*Hernandez from page 8*

employees shared concerns about micromanagement and about decisions being revisited after the work had already been completed.

“When employees feel that their decisions may be overturned or sec-



**GREAT LEADER** — Tribal Chair Carlos Hernandez has made a positive impact for the band members of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

ond-guessed they can create an environment where people hesitate to act or bring forward ideas,” said Hernandez. “One of the commitments we made was to begin shifting that culture—our departments are filled with talented professionals who are hired because of their knowledge and experience, they deserve the trust and support to do the work they were trained to do.”

Although it doesn’t happen overnight, Hernandez said the tribal council and members of the leadership team have been encouraging a workplace where employees are empowered to

make decisions within their roles and where departments can move their work forward without unnecessary barriers.

“When employees feel trusted and supported, they do their best work,” said Hernandez. “And when our employees succeed, our entire nation benefits.”

Hernandez also talked about getting band members involved with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), namely regarding Constitutional Reform meetings that have been taking place each month and at MCT quarterly meetings, so that updates from Bois Forte are shared with the membership.

“These discussions will shape the future of our nation, and participation from our community will be essential,” said Hernandez. “The future of our nation should never be decided in empty rooms—they should be shaped by the voices of our people... self-governance and sovereignty are not just words, they are responsibilities—our nation has always believed that our people should have an opportunity to help shape their own future.”

Hernandez also touched on the importance of strengthening our economic foundation and tipped his cap to Fortune Bay Resort Casino for being the most important economic driver for Bois Forte. He added that the casino’s success helps support programs, services, and employment for many of our people.

“We continue working with the leadership and management to ensure that Fortune Bay remains strong and competitive so that the benefits of our enterprise continue supporting our nation for generations to come,” said Hernandez.

Other talking points included lauding the one-year anniversary of the Ishkode Dispensary and the need to establish a grow facility so that Bois Forte can create its own products, create additional jobs, and explore potential future retail opportunities across the state.

Progress with new structures being

built in both Vermilion and Nett Lake was also mentioned, including the Big Woods Transit garage and Department of Natural Resources Building, which will include space for wild rice storage.

“Wild rice has sustained our people for generations, and protecting their tradition is part of protecting who we are as Anishinaabe people,” said Hernandez, who also spoke of the importance of addressing housing challenges for band members.

He realizes housing challenges won’t be resolved overnight, but added that the tribal council will remain committed to creating more opportunities for safe and stable housing for Bois Forte band members.

“A strong community begins with strong homes,” he said. “There are moments in this job when I pause, and I think about the generations who came before us—our ancestors stood on this same land. They harvested this rice, fished these waters, and raised their families here long before any of us were born. They carried our language, our traditions, and our identity through times that were not always easy.”

It’s easy to see that Hernandez gets inspired as he carefully selects his words and messages he wants to deliver to his fellow band members—he carries a heavy burden by paying homage to those who came before us and those who will come after us.

“Sometimes I think about the responsibility we carry today,” said Hernandez. “We are only here for a short time, but the decisions that we make will shape the future of Bois Forte for generations. Our ancestors protected this nation for us; now it is our turn to protect it for those who will come after us.”

He solemnly talked about how we sometimes have to revisit painful chapters in our history, including the boarding school era, where natives were stripped of their language and culture and forced to assimilate into the white man’s world. He paused to reflect on the lives of three children (Raymond

Burnett, Edgar Marshall, and Mary Mentowash) from the Bois Forte community whose remains were recently discovered at a burial site in Nebraska.

“We speak their names, so they have never been forgotten,” said Hernandez. “These were not just names in the historical records—these were children of our nation. Tonight, we remember these children and honor them as part of our nation in our hearts and our community... they will always have a seat at the table—we remember them not only as names in history but as children of our nation whose spirits remain part of our people.”

Looking forward, Hernandez said there is still so much to do and once again reiterated that economic diversification and strengthening our infrastructure will remain a priority for the tribal council and its leadership team. He added that the work they do today is not only for this moment, but it’s for the next 10-20 years and for future generations who will carry our nation forward.

“When I think about the future of Bois Forte, I see a strong nation. I see people. I see thriving businesses creating opportunities for our people,” said Hernandez. “I see our language spoken more often, I see young leaders stepping forward with confidence, and I see a community that continues to stand together through every challenge we face.”

As Hernandez concluded his speech, he thanked the community for their prayers, condolences, and kind words after the passing of his mother, Faye Hernandez, the week leading up to the State of the Band.

“From the bottom of my heart, it means more than I can put into words to know that I have the support of this community during a difficult time,” said Hernandez. “Your kindness, your prayers, and your support meant the world to my family and me.”

# Bois Forte Tribal Council Special Meeting Minutes

## Minutes of a Special meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held February 4, 2026, at Bois Forte RTG, Eagle Room, Nett Lake, Minnesota-Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 9:14 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: Regina Howe, Frances Irving, Miranda Lilya, Kim Greiner, Amy Mason, Brian Whiteman Sr., Robbie Goggleye, Vondalee Carr, Doris Isham, Teresa Isham. See attached list for virtual attendees.

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the agenda with additions under Miranda, Ice Traffic Stops of Tribal Vehicles & Employees on duty policy and GEB members and precinct boards. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve RTC Meeting minutes, Regular session, Special meeting held January 21, 2026. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

l) Donation recommendation-\$500 Rock Ridge Hockey Games 4-0-0

m) Tribal Government I.C.E Building access policy 4-0-0

n) Donation recommendation-\$150 Roxanne Goggleye 4-0-0

o) MCT Tribal Election Court of Appeals judge, Chris Anderson 4-0-0 Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift, seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the Policy for Issuance of Certifications of descendants. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick, seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; rescind approval for donation recommendation of \$500 to Brandon Sackett that was approved 01/21/2026. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the denial for donation recommendation of \$500 to Brandon Sackett. Carried 4-0-0

Pam Parson gives compliance update.

- HIPAA policy updates (including reproductive health protections)

- 2026 HIPAA training and MedTrainer modules

- Billing and coding audit

- Security risk assessment completed for 2025

- Cybersecurity concerns involving phishing and AI voice/image fraud

- Two new compliance committee members were welcomed

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the MN Department of Commerce grant award contract authorizing Chair to sign. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to table the approval of the trade of vehicle and purchase of new vehicle pending policy development and cost comparison. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Tribal Legal Development Clinic at UCLA School of Law for drafting family law codes. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 61-2026, approving the 2025 Bois Forte Hazard Mitigation Plan. Carried 4-0-0

Recess is taken at 10:19 a.m.

Reconvene at 10:31 a.m.

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Tara Geshick; to certify Shane Drift as candidate for District I Representative seat in the upcoming 2026 Regular election. Carried 3-0-1 (Shane Drift silent)

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to certify Mildred Holmes as candidate for District I Representative seat in the upcoming 2026 Regular election. Carried 3-0-1 (Shane Drift silent)

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Shane Drift; to certify Robert Moyer, Jr. as candidate for District II Representative seat in the upcoming 2026 Regular election. Carried 3-0-1 (Robert Moyer silent)

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to certify Timothy O'Leary as candidate for District II Representative seat in the upcoming 2026 Regular election. Carried 3-0-1 (Robert Moyer silent)

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to certify Alanna Sherman as candidate for District II Representative seat in the upcoming 2026 Regular election. Carried 3-0-1 (Robert Moyer silent)

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to certify Peter Boney as candidate for the Secretary-Treasurer seat in the upcoming 2026 Regular election. Carried 3-0-1 (Tara Geshick silent)

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Shane Drift; to certify Carol Burr as candidate for the Secretary-Treasurer seat in the upcoming 2026 Regular election. Carried 3-0-1 (Tara Geshick silent)

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to certify Tara Geshick as candidate for the Secretary-Treasurer seat in the upcoming 2026 Regular election. Carried 3-0-1 (Tara Geshick silent)

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Shane Drift; to certify Jeffrey Mattson as candidate for the Secretary-Treasurer seat in the upcoming 2026 Regular election. Carried 3-0-1 (Tara Geshick silent)

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to certify David C. Morrison, Sr. as candidate for the Secretary-Treasurer seat in the upcoming 2026 Regular election. Carried 3-0-1 (Tara Geshick silent)

A lottery draw was done to determine the candidates' names listed on the ballot:  
District I Representative  
Shane Drift \*Incumbent  
Mildred Holmes

District II Representative  
Robert Moyer, Jr. \*Incumbent  
Timothy O'Leary  
Alanna Sherman

Secretary-Treasurer  
Carol Burr  
David C. Morrison, Sr.  
Jeffrey Mattson  
Peter Boney  
Tara Geshick \*Incumbent

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the ICE Traffic Stops of Tribal Vehicles & Employees on Duty policy. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to appoint Linda Shykes as the Chair for the General Election Board. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to appoint Linda Manick as a member of the General Election Board. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to appoint Billie Deegan as a member of the General Election Board. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Francis Littlewolf III as a member of the General Election Board. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Meredith TwoCrow as an alternate member of the General Election Board. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to appoint Craig Goodsky as an alternate member of the General Election Board. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Cheryl Jensen as Chair for District I election board. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Craig Goodsky as Clerk for District I election board. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Taylor King as Teller for the District I election board, pending verification of voting district. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to appoint Tracey Dagen as Chair for the District II election board. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to appoint Charlene Lewis as Clerk for the District II election board. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Meredith TwoCrow as Teller for the District II election board. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to appoint Leonard Geshick as the Chair for the Minneapolis Urban election board. Carried 4-0-0

*Minutes from page 13*

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to appoint Michelle Smith as Teller for the Minneapolis Urban election board.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Debra Villebrun as Clerk for the Minneapolis Urban election board.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to appoint Charlene Day-Castro as an alternate for the Minneapolis Urban election board.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to appoint Candice Maher as an alternate for the Minneapolis Urban election board.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to appoint Maria Parks as an alternate for the Minneapolis Urban election board.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to appoint Danny Lambert as Chair for the Duluth Urban election board.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to adjourn at 11:18 a.m.  
Carried 4-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving  
Approved at Regular RTC Meeting: April 1, 2026

Minutes of a Special meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held February 18, 2026, at Bois Forte RTG, Eagle Room, Nett Lake, Minnesota-Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 11:08 a.m.

Invocation done by Carlos Hernandez.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Regina Howe, Frances Irving, Miranda Lilya, Randy Long, Lance Hill, Simona Benner, Doris Isham, Amy Mason, Jim Barto. See attached list for virtual attendees.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the agenda with additions: Doris Isham updated resolution; Kim Greiner-FY 2026 Tribal ARPA Budget; Amy Mason-Approval to access Bois Forte energy usage data to support grant application and Approval of free technical assistance support community engagement tied to our microgrid grant; Miranda Lilya-Request for Bois Forte Tribal Gov't Olympics and Bois Forte Tribal Government building access.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Tara Geshick; to table RTC Meeting minutes, Regular session, Special meeting held February 4, 2026 due to not being ready.  
Carried 4-0-0

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

p) Approved signing of the Tribal Amicus Brief in the Running Aces litigation 4-0-0

q) Offer of sale for Leander property 4-0-0

r) Appointment of election contest judge & alternate for 2026 General Election 4-0-0  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the grant contract agreement with the State of MN for OEMS Ambulance Budget deficit grant award and authorizing the chair to sign.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve fundraising request for the 2026 Sobriety pow wow being held 04/25/2026.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the donation committee recommendation of approval of \$250 to Jolene Goggleye for fundraising supplies.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the donation committee recommendation of denial of funds to the Rock Ridge Youth Hockey association.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve Resolution No. 62-2026, support for the Band's FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant application.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the 2026 program budget requests and general government budget.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the request for approval for chair to sign the Tribal Participation form for Tribal Opioid Settlement for Jansen.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the garnishment of 2026 per capita checks.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the Sun Life stop loss insurance additional documents and authorizing the chair to sign.  
Carried 4-0-0

Recess is taken at 12:08 p.m.

Reconvene at 12:20 p.m.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 63-2026, cancellation of lease for Dorothea Kletschka.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the certificate of title to Tom Spears.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve Resolution No. 64-2026, new residential lease for Tom Spears.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 65-2026, Tower lease agreement with Verizon (FBRC).  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the contract with Communication Network Engineering for the NTIA Broadband grant.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to authorize for utilities to release consumption data for 1 year.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve free technical assistance support from MPCA for Microgrid engagement.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Justina Drift as the Clerk for the District I election board.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Angeline Lilya as the Teller for the District I election board.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to appoint Sidra Eaves as the Clerk for the Duluth Urban election board.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to appoint Wendy Drift as the Teller for the Duluth Urban election board.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Virgil Sohm and an alternate for the Duluth Urban election board.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve Resolution No. 66-2026, Reappointment of Saydee Whitebird as the Bois Forte Cannabis Regulatory Commission Director.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the entire day off on March 20, 2026 for the Employee Office Olympics.  
Carried 4-0-0

Discussion was held on the Tribal Government building access system that was recently updated.

- Question on whether all employees should have access to the upstairs, where tribal council/executive direction is located. Council agreed that all employees will continue to have access upstairs during regular business hours only.

- Senior management will develop recommendations on who needs 24/7 access; area-wide access; or restricted access. Those recommendations will be sent to council for review in the next week. 24/7 access for law enforcement to ALL Tribal Government buildings will need to be discussed further.
- Visitors must check in at the front desk with a staff member escorting them.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to table the 24/7 access for law enforcement for further discussion. Concerns that were raised: HIPPA, Scope of access, legal and LE input.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to adjourn at 1:15 p.m.  
Carried 4-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving  
Approved at Regular RTC Meeting: April 1, 2026

# Bois Forte Tribal Council Regular Meeting Minutes

## Minutes of a Regular meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held January 7, 2026, at Bois Forte RTG, Vermilion Social Center, Tower, Minnesota-Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Invocation done by Vern Adams.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Frances Irving, Miranda Lilya, Kim Greiner, Vern Adams, Amanda Goggleye, Simona Benner, Carol Burr, Theresa Drift, Jenna Lehti

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the agenda.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve RTC Meeting minutes, Regular session, special meeting held October 1, 2025, November 19, 2025 and December 17, 2025.  
Carried 4-0-0

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

a) Approve of change order no 1 & 2 for Ulland Brothers for NL Wastewater system improvements 4-0-0

b) Resolution No. 51-2026, approving Title VI grant application and survey for needs 4-0-0

c) Approved master services agreement with Integris for purchase of software 4-0-0

d) Resolution No. 52-2026, requesting litigation support and attorney fee funding from BIA for FY 2026 4-0-0  
Carried 4-0-0

Kim Greiner provides a Tribal Government FY 2026 qtr 1 update.

Pam Parson gives a compliance update.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the medical emergency fund guidelines revisions.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by

Shane Drift; to approve the employment application revisions.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve Resolution No. 53-2026, approving 2026 IGA membership dues to be paid by Fortune Bay.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 54-2026, accepting grant award from OEMS for ambulance in the amount of \$20,188.67.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to table the funding request to Rock Ridge hockey for their Native American heritage night events in the amount of \$1,400.00 until meeting with donation committee and review of polices.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve Resolution No 55-2026, accepting Bring it Home rental assistance program funds from MN Housing.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the amendments to the Bois Forte Housing essential family and law enforcement family polices, effective 01/07/2026.  
Carried 4-0-0

Cannabis compact discussion

Recess at 10:01 a.m. - Reconvene at 10:10 a.m.

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the MOU amendment 1, extension for tribal monitors program with New Range Copper Nickle Mine.  
Carried 3-1-0 (Shane Drift opposed)

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to adjourn at 10:27 a.m.  
Carried 4-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving  
Approved at Special RTC Meeting: January 21, 2026

Minutes of a Special meeting, Regular Ses-

ion, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held January 21, 2026, at Bois Forte RTG, Eagle Room, Nett Lake, Minnesota-Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Invocation done by Carlos Hernandez.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Regina Howe, Frances Irving, Miranda Lilya, Carol Burr, Robbie Goggleye, Simona Benner, Vondalee Carr, Randy Long, Brian Whiteman Sr., Jim Barto, Destinie Villebrun. See attached list for virtual attendees.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the agenda.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve RTC Meeting minutes, Regular session, Regular meeting held January 7, 2026.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

e) Approve BF to sign onto the amicus brief led by Prairie Island 4-0-0

f) Sorna Code Revision 4-0-0

g) Statement Re: Activities in MPLS 01/07/2026 4-0-0

h) Waiver of duplicate tribal ID fee until July 31, 2026 4-0-0

i) Joint letter of concern to OCM re: draft proposal for MN Legislature to lift restrictions on cannabis sales and cultivation for medical license holders 4-0-0

j) Resolution No. 58-2026; Approving submission of grant app to the 2026 Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund (TTPSF) to fund preconstruction activities for reconfiguration of intersection of MN 161 and MN 1 near Tower, MN 4-0-0

k) Resolution No. 59-2026; Approving HUD IHBG application submission for construction of 2, eight-unit elder housing buildings

4-0-0  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye, seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the following donation committee recommendations:

- i. \$500 – Rachel Day Graduation
  - ii. \$500 – Brandon Sackett Art Supplies
  - iii. \$500 – Patricia & Miracle Staine Galapagos Island trip
  - iv. \$250 – Muriel Deegan gymnastics
  - v. \$500 – MIEA Conference 2026
- Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the following donation committee denial: IAC Annual Conference.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the trade in purchase of a 2026 GMC 3500 Pick up to be purchased at North Country.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to table Resolution No. 60-2026,

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr; to approve the following donation committee appointments:

Member: Nina Villebrun  
Alternate: Melissa Wright  
Alternate: Amanda Goggleye

Carried 3-0-1 (Jeneal Goggleye silent)

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the sole source request to Fortune Bay every year for the State of the Band event.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to adjourn at 9:31 a.m.  
Carried 4-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving  
Approved at Special RTC Meeting: February 4, 2026

# Bois Forte Head Start kids love Dr. Seuss Week!

NETT LAKE— The Bois Forte Head Start kids were living the dream when they were able to enjoy another jam-packed, adventure filled Dr. Seuss week!

Each day of the week brought something new and exciting for the kids, including Monday's "The Sleep Book," where kids got to wear pajamas to school and the teachers read them The Sleep Book.

Tuesday was the famous "The Cat in the Hat" where they were able to wear something red and white or their favorite hat to class as the teachers read The Cat in the Hat book.

Wednesday was "Wacky Wednesday" where the kids really got into the spirit of things by wearing mismatched outfits, backwards shirts or silly patterns as the teachers read Wacky Wednesday.

Thursday was another all-time classic with the kids wearing their favorite hue of green for Green Eggs and Ham, while Friday meant the kids got to wear crazy socks such as striped, spotted, fuzzy or tall as part of the Fox in Socks Day! Both of these days also entailed teachers reading Green Eggs and Ham, along with Fox in Socks.

The kids are taught by Ashley Pullar and Shannon Gillson, both of whom loved the energy that the kids brought to the classroom as part of another Dr. Seuss week!



THEY LOVED THEIR DR. SUESS BOOKS!— Klaus Harman, left, Aleena Wakemup, center and Jeffrey Harman, right, proudly display their Dr. Seuss book as part of Fox in Socks Day. Submitted photo.



PJ DAY!—The kids wish PJ Day was everyday so they could just roll out of bed, have breakfast, brush their teeth and head off to school! Pictured in the top row, left to right, are: Delvin Morrison, Gabriel Gillson and Jeffrey Harman. Pictured in the bottom row, left to right, are: Klaus Harman, Kirin King, Elijah Prescott and Bryan Porter. Submitted photo.



WACKY WEDNESDAY INDEED!—These kids loved Wacky Wednesday as part of Dr. Seuss week! Pictured in the top row, left to right, are: Delvin Morrison, Ivy Adams, Klaus Harman, Jeffrey Harman, Sara Black, Gabriel Gillson and Aleena Wakemup. Pictured in the bottom row, left to right, are: Corey Connor, Kirin King and Bryan Porter. Submitted photo.



MMMMMMMM!— Elijah Prescott was a trooper as he ate this delicious meal as part of Green Eggs and Ham Day. Submitted photo.



CAT IN THE HAT!— Look at all these cool hats the Bois Forte Head Start kids wore to school as part of Dr. Seuss week! Pictured in the top row, left to right, are: Ivy Adams, Kirin King, Sara Black, Gabriel Gillson, Aleena Wakemup, Delvin Morrison. Pictured in the bottom row, left to right, are: Bryan Porter and Corey Connor. Submitted photo.