

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Special Joint Council Meeting w/Bayfield County Board of Supervisors

June 8, 2022

5:00 p.m. Legendary Waters Grand Ballroom

Chairman Christopher Boyd called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Christopher Boyd, Present

Nathan Gordon, Present

Laura J. Gordon, Present

Stephanie Defoe-Haskins, Present

Bryan Bainbridge, Excused

Nicholas DePerry, Excused

Steven Boyd, Present

Butch Bresette, Present

Chris Hicks, Present

QUORUM

Others present: Bayfield County Board of Supervisors, Dave Ujke, Tribal Attorney, Wade Williams, Assistant Attorney, Bryon Daley, TAL, Nicole Boyd, Planning Department, Diane Erickson, Health Administrator, Chase Meierotto, TNR Administrator and Community Members.

AGENDA

Nathan Gordon moved to approve agenda. Seconded by Steven Boyd. Motion carried.

OPENING CEREMONY

Opening ceremony was performed by Marvin Defoe.

INTRODUCTIONS

Went around and did introductions.

STATE OF THE TRIBE/STATE OF THE COUNTY PRESENTATION

Nicole Boyd was present for this presentation.

Nicole talked about the Strategic Plan Priorities, and they were Poverty and Hunger, Substance Abuse, Youth, Safety, Housing, Technology, Accountability, Sustainability, Sovereignty and Workforce Development.

Poverty and Hunger – Eliminate poverty and hunger while achieving sustainable development that improves quality of life in Red Cliff. Data Collection, Comprehensive Plan underway, Wrap around services, Culture and Language, and food Sovereignty. 76.2% households are considered “Low Income” based on HUD Standards and 42.4% households are at or below the federal poverty level.

Substance Abuse – The Tribe has a AODA Tribal Action Plan (TAP). Facility needs: Mishomis Wellness Center, Nooji'mowewin AODA Services, and all the Wisconsin tribes are working on an Adolescent Treatment facility. We have the Red Cliff Wellness Curriculum, which was developed in the 80's and has now been tweaked, you can find this on the tribe's website.

Youth – the goal is the children are protected from abuse and families are kept together. Youth have opportunities for growth and learning thru our Indian Child Welfare, Youth Services, Boys and Girls Club, Facility needs, the Youth Council is established, Cultural preservations/revitalization activities. A lot of our youth were at the Cultural Center groundbreaking ceremony.

Safety – Red Cliff is safe and secure, Preventative education for crime reduction, Red Cliff Law Enforcement, Emergency Services. The tribe has received a grant to build a new EMS building that will house the EMS. Law Enforcement will be housed right along side the EMS building. The tribe also has a Command Center vehicle.

The tribe has also purchased new equipment for the road department, along with mobile digital signs and line painter & grader. The tribe will also be getting two (2) new electrical vehicles.

Housing – we have approximately 465 occupied units, 52.2% are renters, 43.8% are homeowners and 4.0% occupy without payment of rent. Housing projects are competitive Indian Housing Block grants received to build 24 homes and rehabbed the six-plex. ARPA funding to construct 46-56 units: apartments, duplex, and single-family units. Within some of these units we have tribal members either renting or they are purchasing the home.

Technology – Red Cliff has sufficient technological infrastructure to meet its operational and development needs. Broadband expansion, Communications, Devices: 78% have access to smartphones, 66% to tablets/iPads, 63% laptops, 41% desktop. All the elders on the reservation received iPads back in 2020.

Accountability/Sustainability – Economic Diversification Strategy complete in 2020, Business Development Corporation, Red Cliff Fish Company, Tourism team, Legendary Waters Resort and Casino, Purchases on the Commercial Corridor along highway 13.

Workforce Development – Red Cliff develops, supplies, and retains a skilled labor force for all Tribal jobs. Top three (3) barriers to employment are Lack of Childcare, Few/no available entry-level jobs and Family responsibilities.

We have two (2) new building that are located at the pow-wow grounds, and they are the library building and the THPO building.

A question was asked like where will the tribe be servicing the two (2) electric vehicles? They will be services in the new transportation building.

Chairman stated that the tribe has close to 8,000 tribal membership and about 1600 live in the community and about 6,000 live off the reservation. We do a lot here in Red Cliff – we have the largest population, and it keeps growing.

Assisted Living was brought up and was stated that our county is older than the state of Florida and it was asked if the tribe had looked at assistant living, and the answer is yes, it is in the process and it is with our planning department. Councilman Boyd stated that he is the Chairman of the Housing Board, and he can tell us that we have about 110 on the wait list.

The County is looking at doing some scatter sites maybe we can look at some collaboration on this.

Bayfield State of the County was presented by Mark Abeles Allison. The mission statement for the County is: Provide essential government services in an accessible, transparent, and cost-effective manner.

Maintaining excellence in customer service this is critical in all departments.

The Core County Services has 20 departments and 85% of the County budget goes out to three (3) departments: Public Safety – Patrol/Investigations, Jail and Dispatch: they have funded the patrol officers now 24/7 365 days a year, Human Services and Highway: State and County. County Highway department maintains approximately 350 miles of highway and County highways are on a 20-year plan replacement cycle, right now they are working on county highway J.

Maximizing Resources for Resident services: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), DOJ Cares Funds for Courthouse and Justice, Health Services (public health office expansion), Department of Natural Resources (artesian wells), Public Services Commission (broadband services), Office of Energy Innovations (solar and battery technologies), coastal Management (comprehensive planning).

ARPA plus investments is: Northern Lights Nursing Home, Courthouse HVAC, Senior Meals, Public health, IT infrastructure, Sewer/Broadband/Infrastructure, BART and BRICK.

2020 census redistricting 13 districts average size, 1248 people per district. Collaborations: Tribal County Relations, Emergency Medical Service Advisory, Bayfield/Ashland towns association, Superior Days, and Represented on Numerous State and Regional Board =s and Commissions.

Challenges: Rebuilding after Pandemic, Support for local business, Demographics and shifts in Senior population, Housing availability and affordability, Childcare, Staffing and Emergency services.

Chairman Boyd stated that we are all in this pandemic together.

Councilman Hicks asked there is nothing in here about substance abuse – Sara Wartman explained that there is a health assessment (AODA) completed every three (3) years. They do have a drug court, and a treatment diversion program and these are vital programs that go on in the jail. Councilman Hicks stated that we need to come up with something to help out the individuals to stay clean due to right now they get clean and go back to the same environment. Sara also explained that there is a lot of great curriculum that are going on in the schools – they even offer all Narcan and there is a training on it.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN BAYFIELD COUNTY AND THE RED CLIFF TRIBE – A FOCUS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Diane Erickson and Sara Wartman gave the presentation.

Diane had mentioned that Red Cliff had seen its first case of Covid-19 back in March of 2020. Red Cliff convenes Emergency Task Force - Federal, State, Tribal Public Health State of Emergency – State, Tribal Stay at home Orders – Limited or no testing capacity. Red Cliff depended on Bayfield County for their assistance.

As of 6/2/2022, Bayfield County had a total of 3,594 positive cases and 4 deaths and the Red Cliff jurisdiction had 556 total cases and 3 deaths.

Testing – hosted numerous testing events utilizing the National Guard. Red Cliff's testing capacity was utilized to assist with outbreaks within the area. Vaccines – mass vaccination clinics – Red Cliff opened its clinics to Bayfield County residents in response to supply chain issues. Bayfield County has one of the highest vaccination rates in the state with 74.6% of residents receiving at least one dose. Communication/Recommendations – shared discussions with Red Cliff Medical Director. Frequent communication on developments, concerns, strategies, and progress.

COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery moving forward – opportunities for shared goals – Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Public Health Capacity, Homelessness, Workforce Development and Health Disparities.

Red Cliff and Bayfield County would compare notes before putting any information out to the public either thru press release or face book, they wanted to make sure it was the same message that went out to all.

Collaboration was the key during this pandemic. Lesson learned is that we are all in this together. Real time data is key and to also continued monitoring.

Chairman Boyd stated that this is a true example of collaboration.

LAND REPATRIATION PRESENTATION

Dave Ujke was there to present.

Dave started off by talking about the Original Ojibwe territory extended from Niagara Falls to the Great Lakes basin on both sides of the U.S. border. Migration story – settled around Lake Superior sometimes around the time Columbus hit the Western hemisphere. Red Cliff was originally part of the LaPointe Band. The LaPointe Band became Red Cliff (Chief Buffalo) and Bad River.

Federal Indian Policy – Post settlement, early years were characterized by treaty making and statute. As expansion moved westward, removal policy became prominent, especially post War of 1812. Eventually fixed reservations and allotments (by which tribal ownership in some lands would be converted to title held by individuals). Assimilation and the General Allotment Act (Dawes Act) of 1887. Indian Reorganization (Wheeler/Howard) Act of 1934 – tribes organized like corporations. Termination (1943-61). Self Determination and Self Governance (1961-present).

Dave also stated that it would be nice if you understood the treaties. 1837 Treaty – land cession for timber harvest. 1842 Treaty – additional land cession for mineral rights. 1854 Treaty – establishment of permanent fixed reservation homelands. Two important points – 1 settlers dealt with natives as sovereign nations, and 2 all treaties reserve usufructuary rights. Dave presented a couple of maps to show the Tribal ownership.

Chase Meierotto stated that a lot of the funding come from the GLRI Funds – Bayfield County Land Acquired by Red Cliff back in 2017, 80 acres was purchased for Frog Creek Headwaters, in 2018, 80 acres was purchased at Sand River, 2020, 210 acres was purchased for Frog Bay and in 2021, 348 acres was purchased for expanding Frog Bay/Raspberry. The total acres that were purchased was 718, this was bought back piece by piece. Chase thanked Wade Williams for answering a lot of questions.

While this largely resolves lands lost to Bayfield County, the Tribe's repatriation efforts continue. The Tribal tax issues are still out there, taxes keep growing and growing. There are currently fourteen (14) land properties that are ready to go from fee to trust.

Mr. Silbert would like to thank Chad Abel, Chase Meierotto and Jason Bodine who did a lot of work on these parcels and would like to move forward with respect.

Vice Chairman Gordon stated that this had been a long time coming and sat in many meetings – we have a lot of history. He stated a question came up a long time ago and what are we going to be doing with the land – and he stated that it will be used for the next generations to come. We can say today that we are now getting land back for our next generations. Chi-Miigwetch for all that are here tonight.

Mr. Sandstrom stated that this is such important work, and we all need to work together.

Chairman Boyd was presented by the Board with a red pine seedling to plant. Chairman Boyd and Vice Chairman Gordon presented the Board with a book called Native Wisconsin Discover.

Marvin Defoe talked as an elder he talked about our ancestors are here tonight listening. He talked about throughout the history (being removed from our land, sandy lake tragedy), that we were taught to love the land, water and this is very emotional for him. He would like to commend the Council and the County Board and to our Thunderbird Legal team for making this a better life for our community.

Carolyn Gouge thanked Marvin for what he had said and that she feels the same way. She believes that at the beginning that our grandfathers sat in Council and prayed when they thought about us and what they were going to do for the next 7 generations. We are spiritual people and when things took place there was prayer and Council.

PROTECTING WATER JOINT PROCLAMATION DISCUSSION

Bayfield County created a Joint Proclamation No. 2022-02 pertaining to Protecting Water.

Carolyn Gouge talked about back in 2003 when things took place, she stated that in the future a drop of water will be as much as an ounce of gold. Water is life and it has a spirit. She talked about global warming – she mentioned water walkers that they are here to protect the water, so that water will be here for our next generations. Carolyn is a water walker and prays for the water.

Jeff Silbert stated that they also like to protect the waters, and then he read the proclamation out loud for the audience.

Nathan Gordon moved to approve the Joint Proclamation No. 2022-02 Protecting Water. Seconded by Butch Bresette. Motion carried.

Chairman Boyd and Chairman Pocernich both signed the Proclamation.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

We need to get an updated MOU.

Steven Boyd moved to have the Tribal relations group to identify two (2) dates to have the Tribe and County meet. One (1) will be held at the County and one (1) will be held in Red Cliff. Seconded by Butch Bresette. Motion carried.

Avenues of collaboration topics could be Substance Abuse, Operation Ordinance on CAFO, food pandemic, building infrastructure. Board did agree on the substance abuse and would need to get the new sheriff on board.

Chairman Pocernich thanked us for meeting with them and allowing for them to come over.

GROUP PICTURE

We all took a group picture on the stage.

OTHER

No other business.

ADJOURN

Butch Bresette moved to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. Seconded by Stephanie Defoe-Haskins. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Laura J. Gordon', is written over a horizontal line.

Laura J. Gordon, Secretary
Red Cliff Tribal Council