

Covering the Ho-Chunk Nation



HOCAK WORAK

Vol. XXXIX, Issue 23

Ca He Waksu wira | Deer Antler Shedding Moon

December 12, 2025



Deadline and Publication
Dates for 2026

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Tribal Youth Initiative
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Ho-Chunk Nation Celebrates New Dual-Language Highway Signs

Kaili Berg

The Ho-Chunk Nation, state leaders, and community members gathered at the House of Wellness in Baraboo to unveil new dual-language highway signs.

The signs feature both Ho-Chunk and English place names, marking an important step in restoring Ho-Chunk language and visibility across the state.

"Today, we honor our ancestors and celebrate our enduring presence on this land," President Jon Greendeer said. "These dual-language signs are more than markers along the highway, they are a restoration of our Ho-Chunk identity, our language, and our responsibility to future generations."

The newly unveiled signs include "Mąq Wakacąk" ("Sacred Earth") and "Zaagi ciinak" ("Sauk Village"), with English translations placed beneath the Ho-Chunk language. Each sign also carries the Ho-Chunk Nation seal.

Gov. Tony Evers joined the Nation for the unveiling, highlighting that the work stems from ongoing collaboration between the state and Tribal governments.

"Every dual-language sign we install is a shared decision," Evers

said. "Wisconsin is strongest when we recognize and respect the people and Nations who have shaped this land for generations."

The Ho-Chunk Nation became the ninth Tribe in Wisconsin to participate in WisDOT's dual-language sign initiative, launched in 2021. The program works directly with Tribal Nations to place road signs on Tribal lands in both English and Indigenous languages, an effort that supports language revitalization while also making Indigenous presence visible to the wider public.

WisDOT Secretary Kristina Boardman said the signs are part of a broader commitment to Tribal sovereignty and cultural preservation.

"When travelers see the Ho-Chunk language on these new highway signs, they are reminded that the Ho-Chunk Nation's resilience and thriving presence will continue to inspire and shape generations to come," Boardman said.

The unveiling follows other recent collaborations between the Ho-Chunk Nation and the state. Earlier this year,



state and Tribal leadership celebrated the naming of Interstate 90 between La Crosse and Tomah as the Ho-Chunk World War II Code Talkers Memorial Highway, honoring Ho-Chunk veterans whose contributions remained unrecognized for decades.

It also comes after Gov. Evers used his line-item veto authority in the 2025-27 state budget to ensure each of Wisconsin's 11 federally recognized

Tribes will receive \$1 million per year for the next two years to support Tribal programs, including language revitalization.

"By placing our Ho-Chunk names back onto the landscape," Greendeer said, "we ensure that our story continues to be seen, spoken, and remembered throughout Wisconsin and along the Mississippi River."



Jackson County Sheriff's Office Conveys 'No threats have been found' After Active Shooter Report

Sheriff Duane Waldera, Jackson County Sheriff's Office

On December 9, 2025, at about 10:35 AM, the Jackson County Communications Center received unconfirmed, third-hand information that there was a possible active shooter at the Family Health Center (Black River Falls Dental Center), N6571 Lumberjack Guy Rd., Town of Brockway.

Law enforcement officers from the Sheriff's Office and the Ho-Chunk Police Department responded to the area and checked all surrounding businesses. No threats have been found at this time and there is no danger to the community. Further information gained indicated that

a neighboring law enforcement agency was conducting a training exercise using a similar scenario. Steps to notify the public prior to the training were taken by that agency.

The initial information was provided by an unofficial online source which was not affiliated with the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff's Office information releases would be through official media releases, Nixle messaging system, and our Facebook page.

We appreciate the public's cooperation and professionalism during the incident response. The Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Ho-Chunk Emergency Management.

This incident is still under investigation.

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Want something special placed in the Hocak Worak? Limited space is available so send your request in early. Submissions will be handled on a first come first serve basis.

HOCAK WORAK NEWSPAPER
P.O. BOX 667
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615

HOCAK WORAK NEWSPAPER
TEL: (800) 472-3089 FAX: (715) 284-7852
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any address changes or corrections

Tribal Youth Initiative Makes Strong Start

The Ho-Chunk Nation received a BIA grant last summer to create the Ho Chunk Tribal Youth Initiative, which is intended to introduce tribal youth of high School age to careers in natural resources. This includes wildlife management, forestry, fisheries, soil science and other industries which are important in Wisconsin. The Ho Chunk Departments of Natural Resources, Education (Cultural and Community Education) and Social Services (Youth Services) have combined forces to bring this program to fruition. Three events have already occurred and they were rather stunning successes.

Our first event was a five-hour canoe trip in August down the Black River, which 18 Ho-Chunk youth participated. They received a short paddling clinic from Rick Hengel of Wild Wisco Waters Canoe Outfitters, and then were on their way. We cooked hotdogs on a sand bar, hiked a hidden ravine, and tipped two canoes. One of them twice. Everyone came back safe, tired and happy.

In September ten youth went on a fishing excursion on Potters Flowage in Jackson County. The grant was able to cover the purchase of fishing gear for the youth, and the state DNR waived the need for fishing licenses. It was an unseasonably windy and warm, so the big ones weren't biting. But fish were caught, canoes were paddled (only one tipped) and some fabulous chili was consumed.

Later in September, eleven Ho-Chunk Youth earned their Hunter's Safety Certification. The class was led by Jamie Goodbear and Brandon Bleuer with the assistance of others. We had students come from as far away as Milwaukee to participate. At least one of the students got their first deer this past gun season! The HCN DNR hopes



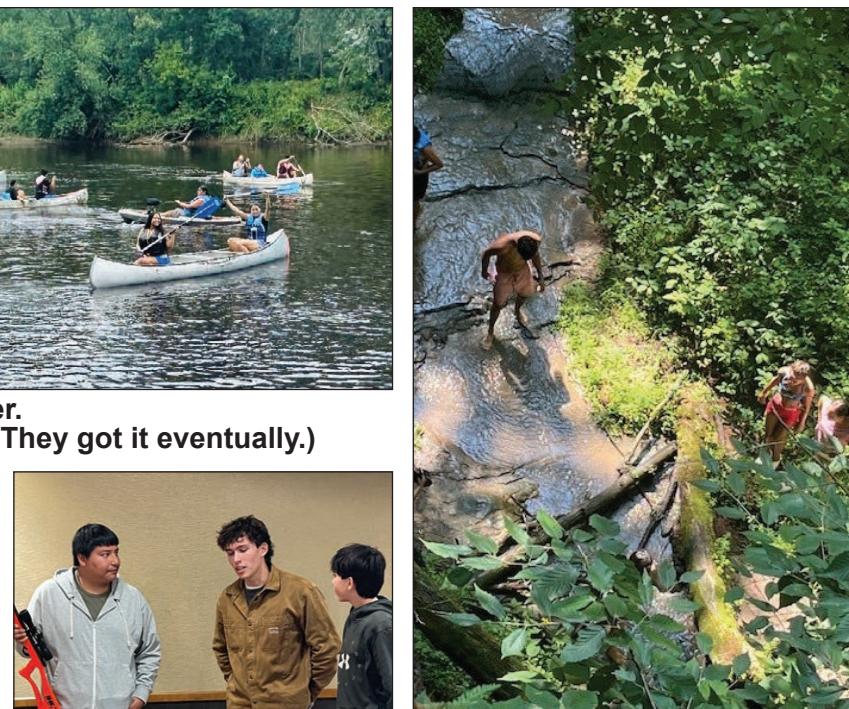
We commence our trip down the Black River.
Lesson One: Which way is down-stream? (They got it eventually.)



Cedar Hill, Eli Carriaga, and Grandon Garvin slaying the fish. Twenty minutes later they learned a "wet" lesson about horsing-around in a canoe. There are three fishing poles available on the bottom of Potters Flowage should you care to retrieve them.

to have a hunter mentor program in place next season, and we will conduct another class next summer or fall.

There are two events upcoming in the next couple months. On December 29th we will be making a trip up north to the Wittenberg area for our forestry field day. We will be hiking through mature northern forests, in snowshoes if necessary. We will check out some of the planting projects implemented by the HCN DNR and hopefully have a chance to see timber harvest activities in progress.



A Kjetil-eye view of our youth hiking a creek off of the Black River.



Haakon Garvin answers an important question posed by Hunter Safety instructor Earlywind Funmaker as his little brother Gavin looks on. Judging by Earl's face, he may be on the wrong track.

On January 19th we will have two winter animal tracking events. One will be in the LaCrosse area and one will be at Aztalan State Park. Our staff of experienced trackers will lead students on snowshoes looking for tracks and other animal sign. Students will learn how to tell "animal stories" by what our fellow creatures leave in the snow.

Other future events will be college visits, maple syruping, tree climbing and an overnight camping trip. Stay tuned for more news on these events.



Carter Yellowbank demonstrating the proper loading and unloading of a lever action rifle for lead Hunter Safety instructor Jamie Goodbear, as Greg Bick does nothing.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HO-CHUNK NATION HOMELESS COALITION
(HCNHC)

Let's Make Everyone Count!

2026 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count

What is the PIT

The PIT Count is a one-day snapshot of the people experiencing homelessness in our communities.

Why do we do it?

Knowing the number of people facing homelessness in our communities can help us advocate for more local and federal funding. It also helps to raise awareness within our communities.

Wednesday, January 28–29, 2026

Available times between 11 PM – 6 AM

Survey Locations (Ho-Chunk Tribal Lands)

Counties Included:
Brown, Jackson, Juneau, Monroe, La Crosse, Sauk, Shawano and Wood

Sign up to volunteer. No experience necessary. Training materials will be provided.

If you are experiencing homelessness contact HCNHC.

at this number

For more info, contact Lynnette Henry
Email: lynnette.henry@ho-chunk.co
or
Call: 715-284-2622 ext. 15152

HCN Tribal Youth Natural Resource Initiative
In Collaboration Between HCN DNR, HCN Education, & Youth Services

Winter Wildlife Tracking

AGES 12-19

January 19, 2026 @ 10AM

Discover how to identify animal tracks, understand foot shapes, stride patterns, and interpret habitat use.

One session will be held in the La Crosse area and another at Aztalan State Park

Transportation will be provided by all Youth Centers

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER OR EMAIL GREG.BLICK@HO-CHUNK.COM



Hocak Worak

P.O. Box 667 Black River Falls, WI 54615
 Phone: (800) 294-9343 extension 11004 Fax: (715) 284-7852
 Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Central Time

Newsletter@ho-chunk.com

Newsletter Deadline and Publication Dates for 2026

Issue	Deadline for Submissions	Publication
1	Jan. 2	Jan. 9
2	Jan. 16	Jan. 23
3	Feb. 6	Feb. 13
4	Feb. 20	Feb. 27
5	Mar. 6	Mar. 13
6	Mar. 20	Mar. 27
7	Apr. 2*	Apr. 10
8	Apr. 17	Apr. 24
9	May 1	May 8
10	May 15	May 22
11	Jun. 5	Jun. 12
12	Jun. 19	Jun. 26
13	Jul. 2*	Jul. 10
14	Jul. 17	Jul. 24
15	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
16	Aug. 21	Aug. 28
17	Sept. 4	Sept. 11
18	Sept. 18	Sept. 25
19	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
20	Oct. 16	Oct. 23
21	Nov. 6	Nov. 13
22	Nov. 20	Nov. 27
23	Dec. 4	Dec. 11
24	Dec. 18	Dec. 25

* = absolute deadline due to holiday

NOTE: Submission deadlines are due by 4:30 PM. Please submit electronically to the email above. We cannot guarantee the publication of submissions meeting these deadlines if the space is not available. If you have any questions regarding this material or it is not received in its entirety, please contact us at the telephone number listed above. Thank you for your business.

HO-CHUNK NATION

DEPT. OF HOUSING

Q&A

MADISON

MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH
4pm-5pm CST

Location: Madison Branch office
 4724 Tradewinds Pkwy.
 Madison, WI 53718

Questions? Contact Kaleena Emery at
Kaleenaemery@Ho-Chunk.com

Attention: The Next Deadline of the Hocak Worak will be December 19th which will be published on December 26th. Please contact Hocak Worak at ext. 11004 if you have a change of address or would like to be placed on the mailing list.

**Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health
 Division of Public Health**

Are you hosting holiday gatherings?
 Do you need a safe way to store your firearms?

Now Available in vending machines:

- Nekoosa Health Center
- Ho-Chunk Nation Health Care Center
- House of Wellness



Or scan the QR code to find a law enforcement agency near you for a free safety kit.

www.health.ho-chunk.com

HOUSE OF WELLNESS
 Fitness | Aquatic Center

HO-CHUNK NATION PRESENTS

MM24

ALL NATIVE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

10TH ANNUAL ROBERTA FUNMAKER'S ALL STAR WOMENS SHOOTOUT TOURNAMENT + 2 NON - NATIVE WOMEN PLAYERS

MARCH 6th, 7th, 8th

REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 1st!

SAVE NOW!! REGISTER EARLY!!!

\$500 ENTRY FEE JUMPS \$100 AFTER JAN 1st

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 20th

1ST - \$10,000 / 2ND - \$5,000 / 3RD - \$3,000 / 4th - \$1,500

24 MENS TEAMS & 16 WOMENS TEAMS

CONTACT: SCOTT SGILBECK@HO-CHUNK.COM 608.355.5155 EXT. 15512

S2845 WHITE EAGLE RD. BARABOO, WI. 53913

All event entry fees are final. Refunds are not issued except in cases of event cancellation by the House of Wellness

The Hocak Worak is a periodical published twice monthly by the Ho-Chunk Nation. Editorials and articles appearing in the Hocak Worak are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of the Hocak Worak staff or the Ho-Chunk Nation.

The Hocak Worak encourages the submission of letters to the Editor. All letters must include the signature, address and telephone number of the author. Letters are subject to editing for grammar, length, malicious and libelous content.

The Hocak Worak reserves the right to reject any advertising, material, or letters submitted for publication. The submission of articles, poetry, artwork and photos is encouraged. The Editor makes the sole decision of what is published in the Hocak Worak. The Hocak Worak will not assume any responsibility for unsolicited material.

Submissions deadlines for the Hocak Worak are by 4:30 PM. We cannot guarantee the publication of submissions meeting these deadlines if the space is not available. No part of this publication may be produced without express written consent from the Editor.

HOCAK WORAK NEWSLETTER

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- **FAX:** (715) 284-7852
- **EMAIL:** Newsletter@ho-chunk.com
- **ONLINE:** www.ho-chunknation.com
- **www.hocakworak.com**



The Hocak Worak is a member of:
 Indigenous Journalists Association
 INDIGENOUS Journalists Association



Student of The Month December 2025

Arnold Tepiew



Red Creek Elementary

Parents: Arnold Tepiew Jr. & Stacee sky

Arnold brings a positive and uplifting attitude to school each day. He is always willing to help his classmates, stays prepared and on-task, and consistently puts forth his best effort. Because 5th-grade math comes easily to him, he challenges himself with advanced math warm-ups to keep growing. His positivity is contagious, and his classmates naturally enjoy being around him. Arnold is a wonderful role model.



Student of The Month December 2025

Laila Lambert

T'aguha - Flying back



11th Grade - Eleva-Strum High School

Parents: Kateri Killian-Lambert & Dave Lambert

Laila Evelyn Lambert is an outstanding student whose excellence shines in every area of her life. A National Honor Society member and AP scholar, she has qualified for State in both National History Day and Forensics, and for FBLA Nationals. Beyond the classroom, Laila excels as a competitive figure skater with the Eau Claire Figure Skating Club, and the elite Northernettes Synchronized Skating Team. An assistant "Learn to Skate" coach. Her compassion shows through her nationally recognized FCCLA project, where she created blankets for every foster child in Trempealeau and Jackson counties and the Ho-Chunk Nation. Active in FFA, a dedicated employee at Highway Hub, an accomplished runner, Ragnar Relay participant, and the current Miss Strum Ice Queen, Laila is a true leader, role model, and shining example of commitment, kindness, and achievement.



Student of The Month December 2025

Marquise "Wamāqanj" Robinson

Graduate/Professional
St. Cloud State University

Marquise is the first person in his family, on both sides, to graduate from college—an accomplishment that highlights his dedication to academic excellence and personal growth. Throughout his education, he maintained honor roll status, served as president of two fraternities, and was inducted into the Duluth Edison Charter School (DECS) Hall of Fame in 2025 for his outstanding leadership and achievements. Marquise is passionate about supporting other Indigenous students and helping them find a strong sense of belonging within their college communities. Shortly after graduating on May 9, 2025, Marquise was diagnosed with cancer, yet he faced his treatment with strength and determination, completing his final session on October 6, 2025. His resilience and commitment to uplifting others



DNR Urges Caution On Early Ice Covers

No Ice Is Safe Ice

MADISON, Wis. — The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages all enjoying outdoor fun this season to be extra careful on all of Wisconsin's waterbodies and remember that no ice is safe ice.

Those eager to take advantage of winter's snow need to keep safety at the forefront of their preparations. This includes staying alert to the rapidly changing ice conditions commonly found in the early parts of winter.

"Early in the season especially, ice conditions are unpredictable and can change quickly on Wisconsin's rivers and lakes. The ice covers hide the currents, debris and underground springs still feeding lakes and rivers, thinning the ice in spots," said Lt. Jacob Holsclaw, DNR Off-Highway Vehicle Administrator. "No matter if you're on foot, on a snowmobile or in UTV, it's important to remember that ice is never 100 percent safe."

The DNR does not monitor ice conditions, but they are monitored locally. Local fishing clubs, outfitters and bait shops are the best sources for local current ice conditions.

However, the best idea for safe winter fun is to enjoy outings without travel over ice.

Conditions Vary Between And Across Waters

If the outing does involve travel over a waterbody, remember every waterbody has its own characteristics. Check if the lake has inlets, outlets or narrows, is spring-fed or has currents, all of which can thin the ice.

Some smaller lakes can have aerators that are run throughout the winter either covering a large area towards the center



Ice covers hide the currents, debris and underground springs still feeding lakes and rivers. / Photo Credit: iStock/FotoDuets

of the lake or may have smaller aerators placed by private property landowners adjacent to their shore and/or piers.

Equally as important is to stay alert for pressure ridges or ice heaves. These can be dangerous due to thin ice and open water and often are created, move or grow with changes in temperatures and high winds.

Here are more safety tips:

- Carry a cell phone, and let people know where you are going and when you'll return home.
- Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a personal flotation device or a float coat to help you stay afloat and to help slow body heat loss.
- Take an extra pair of mittens or gloves so your hands can remain dry and warm.
- Wear creepers attached to boots to prevent slipping on clear ice.
- Carry a spud bar to check the ice while

Continued on Page 6

"Mending Broken Hearts"

Workshop

Healing from Unresolved Grief, Loss & Intergenerational Trauma

Workshop Dates and Times

January 5th through January 9th, 2026

10:00 AM- 3:30 PM

Participants must attend all 5 days of the workshop

Workshop is available up to 20 participants only, must register to attend.

E11046 N Reedsburg Rd. Baraboo, WI. 53913

- Limited transportation available.
- Lunch will be provided.
- Feel free to bring your own tools for healing (cedar, sage, etc.)
- Future workshops in other areas.

The Ho-Chunk Nation Behavioral Health division is facilitating this workshop for tribal members, offering culturally based ways of healing from unresolved feelings of loss and grief created by intergenerational and historical trauma.



Facilitators:
Menissa Powless
Travis Cloud

SCAN TO REGISTER, OR VISIT:

<https://hcn-bh.typeform.com/MBH2026Jan>



Nina Greengrass

Passed on December 8, 2025

Nina "Ruucge skaj ga" Greengrass walked on, on Monday, December 8th, 2025 at the age of 46.

Survived by her loving children Mauricio "Moe" and Serenity "Sky". Dear daughter of Donna Greengrass. Dear sister of Sonia (Jose), Darryl Jr. and Jessica. Further survived by many nieces and a nephew, other relatives and friends.

Preceded in death by her loving father Darryl Greengrass Sr.

Nina was a very loving mother and outgoing person. She made many sacrifices for her children and had a strong faith in God. She loved her nieces and nephew with strength and compassion.

Ho-Chunk Devotional Services will take place on Wednesday, December 10th, 2025 at The Ho-Chunk Nation Milwaukee Branch Office, 3501 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee, 53207. The Comfort Meal will begin 5 PM and will be followed by Devotions.

Visitation will be held on



Thursday, December 11th, 2025 from 9:30 AM - 1 PM at the Bruskiewitz Funeral Home, followed by interment at Forest Home Cemetery, 2405 W. Forest Home Ave., Milwaukee.

Eric Logan will officiate the services.

Continued from Page 4
walking to new areas.

- Carry a couple of spikes and a length of light rope in an easily accessible pocket to help pull yourself – or others – out of the ice.

- Do not travel in unfamiliar areas – or at night.

- Have a plan in place noting where you will be and when you plan to return. Along with leaving a written note of your plans, it is also recommended to keep a charged cell phone.

Take Extra Care With Recreational Vehicles

Last season, several ATVs, UTVs and snowmobiles went through the ice or drove into open water, resulting in six fatalities.

Keep these safety tips in mind when operating recreational vehicles during winter.

- Remember that UTVs are heavy. They are the heaviest recreational vehicle out on the ice, often being close to 3,000 pounds. This is similar to a car or truck.

- Roll your window down when traveling on the ice and make sure you can easily open your door – drive slow and turn the radio down so that you can use eyes and ears to watch and hear for potential issues coming up.

- Make sure you have life jackets or some other type of floatation for every occupant of the UTV.

- Recovery for the UTV or other vehicle is the responsibility of the owner/operator. After 30 days, the owner can be fined each day after 30 days.

- Recovery rates for the machine can also be very expensive.

- Never consume alcohol or drugs before or during your ride.

Refer to the Wisconsin Snowmobile Regulations for laws for operational restrictions, safety tips and more.

The DNR also encourages all snowmobilers to take a safety education class. According to Wisconsin law, anyone at least 12 years of age and born after Jan. 1, 1985, must have a valid safety education certificate to operate a snowmobile. Sign up now as classes fill fast.

If the worst happens and you happen to fall in, here's what to do:

- Carry a couple of hand-held spikes and a length of light rope in an easily accessible pocket or inside your sleeves to help pull yourself – or others – out of the ice.

- If you fall in, remain as calm as possible and while attempting to assist yourself out of the water, call for help as soon as you can. Anyone who attempts to rescue you also is recommended to use a rope or something similar to avoid falling through as well.

Visit the DNR's Ice Safety webpage for more information on staying safe on frozen waterbodies.

Bet on Life. Roll Up Your Sleeve, Save up to 3 Lives!



DONATE BLOOD WITH THE

American Red Cross

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

11:30am - 5:30pm | Lower Dells Ballroom by Atrium

All presenting donors will receive
\$15 Rewards Play, coupon for a pint of
Culvers custard PLUS a delicious meal!



APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED

CALL 1-800-RED-CROSS
(1-800-733-2767)

VISIT RedCrossBlood.org
Sponsor Code: Casino



HO-CHUNK GAMING
WISCONSIN DELLS

TO ALL HO-CHUNK ELDERS:

Address Change

When you apply for Elder Insurance, please include an Email and Phone Number.

Please notify Gloria Ward or Sara Pomeroy in the insurance department with address changes.

If you changed it with Enrollment or Treasury you must also change with Insurance. This will allow Insurance to send notifications that are required.

We will be doing Medicare Reimbursement again for Elders 65 and older that pay for their Medicare B. if your address has changed, please call, mail or email us as soon as you can to change it.

You will get an application in January to send back before 3/31/26

Insurance Cards

If you utilize an ambulance, you must give them a copy of your Insurance and Medicare cards, the hospital does not share information with them.

Medicare Parts A and B

If you are working Part Time, LTE or an Elder worker for the Ho-Chunk Nation you carry both parts Medicare A and B.

If you are working for the Ho-Chunk Nation full time and your turning 65 you don't have to sign up for Medicare Parts A and B until you retire, resign or are working part-time.

Please supply us with a copy of your Medicare A and B card for our records.

Failure to sign up will result in consequences. The plan will only pay 20% of your bill and you will be responsible for 80%.

You do not need anything other than A and B, you don't need D it is for Prescriptions you have that coverage with your Elder Insurance.

If you need help signing up for Medicare A & B please contact Melissa Deloney (715-284-0811) at TAU or Gloria Ward in the insurance department.

If you're drawing Social Security your payment for Medicare B will come out of your check.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Insurance Division at 715-284-4361.

Isaac Cody Pettibone

June 4, 1994 - November 28, 2025

Isaac Cody Pettibone, "Aahuxoc" (Greywing), age 31, of Black River Falls, WI, died on November 28, 2025, at the Gundersen Lutheran Health System after a battle with cancer. Born on June 4, 1994, in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, to Virgil and Lori Pettibone.

A proud graduate of Black River Falls High School in the Class of 2012, Isaac went on to pursue his passion for mechanics at Western Technical College, where he earned a degree as an automotive technician. His hands-on skills and curiosity led him through a diverse and hardworking career path. Over the years, he worked at Home Depot, a cranberry marsh operation, practiced carpentry, and applied his talents as a mechanic—truly a jack of all trades.

Isaac's life was filled with movement and joy. He had a deep love for sports and games of all kinds—basketball, volleyball, golf, darts, pool, swimming, bowling, frisbee golf. In quieter times—or sometimes not so quiet—he found joy in cooking and baking for others and fishing. He'll be remembered for quoting his favorite movies and for his love of hotdogs. Isaac had a knack for making people laugh with his quick wit and infectious humor. He was always willing to help others without hesitation. His generosity extended especially to his nieces and nephews, whom he loved dearly. Whether through playful teasing or heartfelt support, Isaac made sure they knew how much they meant to him. Isaac's memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew him—for his laughter that filled rooms, his readiness to lend a hand or share a joke, and the warmth he brought into everyday life.

Isaac is survived by his parents, Virgil and Lori Pettibone; brothers, Virgil Pettibone, Henry Pettibone,

Waylon Pettibone, and Patrick Houghton Sr.; sisters, Marie Taylor, Toni Pettibone, Dana Pettibone, Tianna Pettibone, Debreana Pettibone, and Trevonna Rave; significant other, Zyanna Deloney; goddaughter, Rainna Vidana; stepdaughter, Abriana Casarez; his second mom, Anna Winneshiek; and special four-legged friend, Ollie.

He is preceded in death by his great-grandmother, Annabelle Lowe; grandparents, Virgil and Lorraine Pettibone, and Ike Greyhair (Gaga Mikki Thundercloud); brothers, Wesley Cloud and Jordan Vidana; sisters, Jonelle Pettibone, Amber Downwind, and Lynn Kelly Pettibone; Uncle, Chris Littlewolf; and aunt, Leanne Rave.

Funeral services for Isaac will be on Monday, December 1, 2025, and the District One Community Center at 12:00. Greg Blackdeer will officiate. Friends and family are invited to the visitation from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service. A burial will immediately follow at the Decorah Cemetery.

The Buswell Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements, 715-284-4321.



DECEMBER

2025

HO-CHUNK NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00AM - 11:45AM
1:00PM - 3:45 PM

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
PHONE: 715-284-7461 EXT. 35038



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	OPEN BRF	2	WITTENBERG DISTRIBUTION 10:30 AM- 12:30 PM Nutrition Booth- KATHY	3
8	OPEN BRF	9	WIS DELLS DISTRIBUTION 10 AM- 1:30 PM Nutrition Booth- ALEX	10
15	OPEN BRF	16	TOMAH DISTRIBUTION 12N- 1:00	17
22	OPEN BRF	23	NEKOOSA DISTRIBUTION 12N-1:00 PM Nutrition Booth - Alex	24
29	OPEN BRF	30	CLOSED INVENTORY	31

CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY FOR TAILGATE DAYS

Rick Decorah-Osbon

June 28, 1960 - November 24, 2025



Rick Decorah-Osbon, age 65, of Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, walked on Monday, November 24, 2025 at his residence.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. at Picha Funeral

Home in Lake Delton, (120 East Adams Street) with Robert Mann officiating. Visitation will be held at from 10:00 A.M. until the time of service at 11:00. Burial will be at Spring Grove Cemetery in Wisconsin Dells.

Rick was born June 28, 1960 in Chicago, Illinois and raised by John and Eleanor (Wojciechowski) Osbon.

Rick was an entrepreneur for both Public Safety Consultants and Decorah Leather Works.

Rick is survived by family and friends and partner Ruth Serewicz. He is preceded in death by family and friends.

HO-CHUNK NATION

Department of Education



Requesting Bids for Meal

Tuesday, February 17th, 2026

12:00pm – 12:30pm

District 1 Community Center

The meal will be for the Goja Howaite Hi Winter Cultural Gathering. The meal will be for 30 people and should include healthy food and drink options.

Bids should include the following information:

- Menu provided, including paper products such as plates, bowls, forks, spoons, knives, napkins, and cups.
- Name of organization submitting the bid, including the mailing address should the bid be awarded.
- Dollar amount of bid.
- A statement agreeing to set-up and clean-up for the timeframe stated above.

Bids will be accepted through Friday, January 16, 2026. No exceptions. Bids should be sent to the attention of Mattea Twinn and Angela Ward, Education Department, via email at Mattea.Twinn@ho-chunk.com and Angela.Ward@ho-chunk.com.

Organizations will be notified via email on Tuesday, January 20th, 2026, whether their bid was accepted. For this reason, please include a contact person and an email address for communication purposes.

Thank you.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 667, Black River Falls, WI 54615
1-800-362-4476 • 715-284-4915 • FAX 1-715-284-1760



Community Health Foot Clinics

December 2025

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

A Registered Nurse will clip/ file your nails, and dremel if necessary. For ingrown toenail removal, please contact podiatry.

Black River Falls - 12/1, 12/18, 12/23

Community Health Office
W9850 Airport Road
(715) 896-1343

Black River Falls - 12/1, 12/18, 12/23

Community Health Office

W9850 Airport Road

(715) 896-1343

Tomah - 12/9

Tribal Aging Unit
358 Eos Road
(608) 372-5202

La Crosse - 12/16

Three Rivers House
724 Main Street
(608) 783-6025

Wisconsin Dells - 12/16

House Of Wellness
S2845 White Eagle Road
(608) 355-1240 x35509

Wittenberg - 12/30

Siga Funmaker Center
W17634 Radke Road
(715) 701-2069

Open to Tribal Members - No walk-ins - Appointment is now needed.

Submerged Canoes in Lake Mendota Offer New Insights into Ancestral Traditions and Waterways

With 16 canoes now identified, Wisconsin Historical Society archaeologists are investigating theories spanning thousands of years of cultural history

MADISON, Wis. – Four years after locating and recovering a 1,200-year-old dugout canoe from Lake Mendota, Wisconsin Historical Society archaeologists and First Nations in the region have continued to wade into the history of the rich archaeological site in the heart of Wisconsin's capitol city. The Wisconsin Historical Society retrieved another ancient canoe from the site in 2022—the oldest dugout canoe originating from the Great Lakes region at the time of recovery at 3,000 years-old—and has since identified 14 ancient canoes still submerged in the lakebed, six of which were located in the spring of 2025. As the two recovered canoes are nearing completion of a multi-year preservation process to ensure their long-term stability, with one of them slated for exhibition in the future Wisconsin History Center, historians are investigating the history behind the underwater site to help preserve and share the story with future generations.

Latest Findings

Wisconsin Historical Society maritime archaeologist Tamara Thomsen, in partnership with First Nations of Wisconsin and University of Wisconsin-Madison professor Sissel Schroeder, has been on a mission to chart the locations of more canoes in Lake Mendota since her unexpected finding of a 1,200 year-old dugout canoe in 2021. Working alongside various collaborators also including the USDA Forest Products Laboratory, efforts have allowed her to map the locations of 16 canoes to date, including the two retrieved in recent years, and identify the wood types and probable ages represented in samples taken from each of the ancient watercraft. Thomsen is now considering theories behind the grouped positions of the canoes as well as the selection of particular species of trees used to craft them.

"Archaeology is kind of like putting together pieces of a puzzle, and the more pieces you can find, the better you can start to form a picture of what was going on and why during

a period of history," said Tamara Thomsen, Wisconsin Historical Society Maritime Archaeologist. "We can't go back in time to get answers to our questions, but we can examine the available data alongside knowledge from First Nations and cultural history to form theories to answer our questions."

Of the 16 canoes identified, half were constructed of either red or white oak according to wood type analysis conducted on the samples by the USDA Forest Products Laboratory. The prevalence of oak—and particularly red oak, which is not typically used for watercraft due to its tendency to absorb water—prompted Thomsen to examine the reasoning behind its use for canoe building.

"When you look at the shoreline map with canoe locations charted, it's clear that there are two distinctive groupings represented," said Thomsen. "Looking at the tree species taxonomy, we wondered not just why certain trees were used by the builders but also why these canoes were situated in

these two locations. Carbon dating from the samples told us that both spots were in use over thousands of years, and so we started to form theories as to why they were left where they were and why certain trees were used."

Carbon dating, which provides a probable age range for each sample, indicates the oldest canoe is around 5,200-years-old while the most recent is around 700 years old. The oldest Lake Mendota canoe identified to date was likely crafted sometime around 3000 BCE, before the Great Pyramid of Giza was built in Egypt and around the time of the invention of writing in Sumer. Constructed of red oak, it is now the oldest dugout canoe recorded from the Great Lakes region and the third oldest in eastern North America.

Emerging Theories

Oak wood, along with some of the other species represented in the samples, is known to form tyloses when the tree encounters stress during the growth cycle such as through wounding or pathogen

infection. Tyloses also form as a natural part of a tree's aging process. During the production of tylosis, balloon-like structures form inside of the wood's vessels which blocks water movement—preventing the spread of fungi and bacteria and compartmentalizing injuries to protect the wood from decay. As a result, the tyloses make the wood better suited for boat building due to its increased water resistance, buoyancy and protection against rot.

"It's entirely possible that the canoe builders were intentionally selecting trees that had been damaged from weather or purposefully wounding them during their growth cycle to induce tyloses. We think of bioengineering as a modern practice, but the samples we have suggest this may have been taking place long before the term was coined in the mid-20th century," said Thomsen.

As for the centralization of canoes into two distinct groupings, a comparison against mapped trailways used by Indigenous

Continued on Page 9

CAA HEE WAKŠU WIIRA
December: Deer Antler Shedding Moon

HARVEST OF THE MONTH

Pumpkin Seeds (Suu)

About Pumpkin Seeds:

- Indigenous people used nearly every part of the pumpkin plant. Some tribes used the seeds as medicine, or dried / roasted the seeds as an important source of protein and healthy fats. Some tribes ground the seeds into flour and mixed it with cornmeal to make breads.
- Nowadays, pumpkin seeds can be eaten with or without their shells. After you scoop them out of the pumpkin, it's a good idea to soak them in water for a few hours to make it easier to remove the pulp. Eating the shells adds extra fiber, which may help lower the risk of heart disease and obesity.
- Pumpkin seeds are an excellent natural source of magnesium, which helps regulate blood pressure. They also provide a variety of other minerals, protein, fiber, and healthy fats.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was funded by USDA's supplemental nutrition assistance program-SNAP.

PUMPKIN SEEDS RECIPE

Ingredients:

- 2 cups pumpkin seeds (cleaned)
- 2 tsp olive oil
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder

Steps:

- Wash hands before getting started.
- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
- In a large bowl, mix all ingredients until all the pumpkin seeds are evenly coated.
- Spread the seeds onto a baking tray and bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown, stirring halfway through.
- Remove from the oven and cool before enjoying!

Like it spicy? In addition to the ingredients, you can also add 1/2 - 1 tsp chili powder.

Love seasonal fall flavors? Leave out the garlic powder and use the following:

- 1 tsp of pumpkin pie spice and
- 1 tsp brown sugar

Notes

- To get started, rinse the pumpkin seeds, and remove any stringy pumpkin pulp. Dry the seeds thoroughly.
- Get creative and try other spice blends. The possibilities are endless!
- Store these in an air-tight container and take them on-the-go for a snack.
- Seeds can be a choking hazard in young children under age 4.

Recipe from: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/recipe/roasted-pumpkin-seeds>

For more Information
Contact a HCN Registered Dietitian/ Nutritionist:

BRF, Tomah, Wittenberg areas:
(888) 685-4422, ext. 35335
BRF, La Crosse areas:
(888) 685-4422, ext. 35340

Dells, Nekoosa, Madison areas:
(888) 552-7889, ext. 35554

HCN HEALTH & WELLNESS DIV.
<http://health.ho-chunk.com/>
Updated 11/20/2023

Hokiikarac Hi'uni Ho-Chunk Clan Mothers

LEARN - CONNECT - GROW

An invitation for women and girls

Reach out and learn from our Ho-Chunk elder women—the Clan Mothers—who carry generations of knowledge, spirituality, guidance and love.



Mission:

To revive an age-old tradition of our elders teaching our young, by providing clan identity, relationship guidance, spirituality, teachings, values and customs; which can ensure a better quality of life for Ho-Chunk families.

Positive role models - Spirituality - Clan identity - Supporting women & girls

Let our elders share teachings from the heart—for you, your family, and future generations.

To schedule an appointment please contact:
Clan Mothers Program Manager
Olivia Blackdeer
715-284-2622 ext. 15123
Olivia.Blackdeer@ho-chunk.com

Ho-Chunk attorney Samantha Skenandore on tribal law and sovereignty

Jamie Miller, Tribal Business News

This story originally appeared in Tribal Business News and is used with permission.

Samantha Skenandore once planned to be a veterinarian. Today, she is a founding partner at Madison, Wisc.-based Skenandore Wilson LLP, specializing in tribal law and governance.

A member of the Ho-Chunk Nation (also a descendant of the Oneida Nation), she found her path to law through an unexpected route: working with Ho-Chunk tribal elders in the nation's cultural resources division after graduating from the University of Wisconsin. When a bottling company threatened a sacred spring site, she saw firsthand how legal advocacy could protect tribal sovereignty and cultural resources.

She earned her law degree from University of Denver Sturm College of Law in 2005 and clerked at the U.S. Department of Justice. Since then, she has advised dozens of tribal and corporate clients on governance, economic development, labor law and cultural-resources protections.

Skenandore fostered and later adopted three daughters, while building her legal career as a single mother. She spoke with Tribal Business News about access to legal services, the importance of learning from other tribal nations and why she tells young professionals: "You can be anywhere you want to be."

The conversation has been edited for clarity and brevity.

What drew you to working in professional services, and how did you find your way into this role?

Originally I wanted to go to vet school. I thought I could work with kids in behavioral sciences, maybe be a counselor, or work in law in private practice or for my tribe as an in-house attorney. I finished my degree at the University of Wisconsin, and luckily landed a job in the Historical Preservation Department of the Ho-Chunk Nation, in the Cultural Resources Division—a group of mostly elders working to protect sacred sites and the language.

While I was there, a watchdog nonprofit called the tribe about the Perrier Bottling Company,

which had support from the governor to open on a sacred spring site. I learned from the attorneys, tribal council, and elders how to stand firm and fight it. After that... I realized I had enough to take the LSAT and go to law school, to advocate for not just Ho-Chunk, but other tribes... because therein lies my real passion.

Why do tribes, tribal enterprises, or Native entrepreneurs hire you? What do they expect from someone in your field?

What I do is help them figure out their goals, and then translate those goals into action and results. It is really about getting outcomes that matter to them.

Can you share one project or client experience you're especially proud of — what did it involve, and why was it important for the client or community?

I do pro bono work on domestic violence — I've done dozens of cases throughout Indian Country and state courts. I'm very proud of the work and how the outcomes have affected children in particular. I will say, if I could pinpoint a recent thing I am proud of — I joined the board of Bioneers, a nonprofit focusing on social change. They hired me to come up with a legal toolkit for tribes to pass rights of nature laws, which are in the avenue of tribal sovereignty.

What are the biggest challenges you see Native communities facing in your area of expertise?

I think one of the biggest challenges is access—access to legal resources, access to advocacy, and just navigating systems that weren't built for Native communities... figuring out how to bridge that gap and make sure people have the tools and support they need.

What's the secret to hiring Native professionals in your industry — what should tribes or entrepreneurs look for?

I can't underestimate the importance of conferencing and togetherness and sharing, and that's how we learn. We still have the same ways of doing business that we did 30,000 years ago - they have just changed a little bit. People need to go, listen and ask questions - learn from other



Samantha Skenandore found her passion for tribal law while working with Ho-Chunk elders to protect sacred sites and cultural resources. (Courtesy photo)

nations and look through some other lenses and perspectives.

What advice do you have for individuals looking to enter the industry?

I'm no tribal leader—I'm just the help. But from the help's perspective, I would say: stay active. You can be the help, you can be a leader, or you can be somewhere in between. Maybe you're on the school board, or maybe you're working with youth—autistic kids or kids with special needs—and helping lift them up. All of these contributions make our communities stronger when youth can find their pathway within the vast fabric of our kinship and tribal communities. And I think that's a beautiful thing.

So my advice is this: know that you belong, and there are spaces for you everywhere. Don't ever let anyone convince you otherwise. You can be anywhere you want to be, and I truly believe that. And if you don't think it's true, call me — I'll help you get there.

Continued from Page 8

communities suggests strategic placement for ease of travel over the landscape, not just for accessing natural resources from the lake but also to facilitate journeys between points of interest on land. The canoes were likely not owned by individuals, but rather shared among members of communities and stored at designated points, similar to how modern community bike sharing programs utilize docking stations for users to store bikes between riders.

"The canoes give us insight into a sophisticated travel network and interconnected communities who used their incredible skills and knowledge to live and thrive on lands where we still live and thrive today. They reflect a deep relationship with the environment and the ingenuity of our ancestors," said Larry Plucinski, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. "Sharing what we learn from this project honors the

innovators whose knowledge lives on and inspires new generations to feel pride for their ancestors."

The canoes could facilitate access to natural resources from the lake like fish—as suggested by the seven net sinkers found with Canoe #1 and three found with Canoe #13—but could also make travel more efficient between communities for trading and to access places of spiritual importance, such as Lake Wingra. The landscape around Madison lakes looked very different before European settlers arrived in the area and conducted terraforming to suit modern transportation, with large bluffs that made traveling over the land difficult in some areas. Canoe travel may have been more efficient for certain routes for the communities who lived in the area spanning thousands of years before Wisconsin became a state.

"Lake Wingra holds deep spiritual significance for the Ho-Chunk people, whose ancestral lands surround its shores," said

Dr. Amy Rosebrough, State Archaeologist for the Wisconsin Historical Society. "One of its springs, with its white clay bottom, is viewed as a portal to the spirit world. For generations, the Ho-Chunk have honored this place through ceremonies of remembrance, guidance and peace, helping spirits journey to the world beyond. This lake is not just a natural feature but a place of profound cultural and spiritual connection."

"This project gives us a meaningful opportunity to gain a deeper perspective on our heritage and our ancestors. The canoes remind us how long our people have lived in this region and how deeply connected we remain to these waters and lands," said Bill Quackenbush, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Ho-Chunk Nation. "It is important that we document and share these stories so our youth feel that connection to our past. Protecting and preserving this knowledge ensures that the next generation

understands where we come from and why these stories matter. That is why we share them and continue this work."

Grant Funding

While working theories shed light on the why and how of the Lake Mendota canoes, the Wisconsin Historical Society continues to work in partnership with First Nations in Wisconsin to document the story for future generations while taking steps to ensure the two recovered canoes are preserved and protected from degradation. In September, the Society was awarded a \$113,912 grant from the Save America's Treasures grant program of the National Park Service, Department of Interior, for canoe preservation.

Both recovered canoes have undergone initial steps of a preservation treatment that uses Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) to stabilize the wood. The treatment began in February 2024 and is expected to conclude next year, but the canoes need to be transported from

Wisconsin's State Archive Preservation Facility in Madison to Texas A&M University to undergo a freeze-drying process that finalizes their preservation and leaves the canoes in a stable, solid structure.

The grant will support safe transport of the canoes to the freeze-drying facility so the preservation process can be completed.

"The recovery and preservation of the Mendota canoes is a remarkable achievement made possible through the dedication, expertise and strong partnerships between First Nations, archaeologists and preservation specialists," said Christian Overland, Ruth and Hartley Barker Director & CEO of the Wisconsin Historical Society. "Thanks to this collaboration, we are excited about the learning opportunities and that one of these incredible canoes will be exhibited in the future Wisconsin History Center, where it will help share the stories of our state's earliest peoples."

HO-CHUNK NATION TRIAL COURT,		For Official Use
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF <u>Howard Walker Jr. DOB: 01/11/1922</u>		
Amended Notice of Hearing on Petition for Probate By: Francis DeCora		
Case No. <u>PR 25-06</u>		
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: 1. A Petition for Probate was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth <u>20/12/1924</u> and date of death <u>29/12/2021</u> was domiciled in <u>16231 15th Ave New London, WI 53950</u> , with a mailing address of <u>16231 15th Ave New London, WI 53950</u> 3. The names or addresses of the following interested person are not known or reasonably ascertainable: 4. The petition will be heard at Wa Ehi Hoci, W9598 Hwy 54 E, Black River Falls, WI, 54615, before Judge <u>Michelle Everdear-Pewe</u> , on (Date) <u>Dec 4th 2025</u> at (Time) <u>10:00 AM</u>		
You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection. If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-284-2722 at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.		
<u>Mary Thunder</u> <u>Mary Thunder</u> Name Printed or Typed <u>10/21/25</u> Date		

HO-CHUNK NATION TRIAL COURT,		For Official Use
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF <u>Gordon Lee Thunder</u>		
Amended Notice to Creditors by Frank B. Thunder		
Case No. <u>PR 25-07</u>		
Notice to Newspaper and Personal Representative: The personal representative is responsible for providing the deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate to all known or reasonably ascertainable creditors. This notice shall be published for three (3) consecutive issues, the first publication date must be within 15 days from the date underneath the Clerk of Court's signature.		
Here is the language that should be published in the newspaper: NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF <u>Gordon Lee Thunder</u> A Petition for Probate was filed in the Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court. You have 90 days from the date of the first publication of this notice to present your claim to the personal representative, <u>Frank B. Thunder</u> or the Clerk of Court at P.O. Box 70, Black River Falls, WI 54615. The deadline for filing claims is <u>12/26/25</u> . Only those claims so presented may be paid from the estate		
<u>Mary A. Falee</u> <u>Mary A. Falee</u> Name Printed or Typed <u>11/17/2025</u> Date		

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
(Live and/or Web Ex Connect*)**

Ho-Chunk Nation Land Development Team

HEARING DATE: December 29, 2025

HEARING TIME: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

HEARING LOCATION: HOW Alberta Day Conference Room

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Land Development Team

DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY: Land Development Team

STAFF CONTACT: Darcy Funmaker or Loa Porter (715) 284-9343 Ext. 11280

APPLICATION/DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: Request for rezoning application for Neeshla Development Solutions Corporation

LOCATION OF PROPOSAL/REQUEST: Lot 24 & 25 Indian Heights 439 T 2104

APPLICANT: Neeshla Development Solutions Corporation

APPROVAL CRITERIA: Ho-Chunk Nation Zoning and Land Use Ordinance 8 HHC § 4

HEARING POLICIES AND APPEALS: the Land Development Team will conduct the hearing pursuant to 8 HHC § 4. All interested persons may testify at the public hearing and may submit written comments and documents before or at the hearing. All hearings are conducted in facilities that are accessible to persons with physical disabilities.

STAFF REPORT AND INSPECTION OF FILE: A staff report will be available for inspection seven (7) calendar days before the hearing. The staff report and application file may be inspected at the Ho-Chunk Nation Planning Office, W9814 Airport Road, Black River Falls, WI. 54615; between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Copies of documents are available for purchase. Questions or public comments can be directed to the staff contact.

NOTICE: Individuals planning to attend the meeting who require special assistance to accommodate physical, hearing, or other impairments, please contact the staff contact as soon as possible for arrangements.

*Please contact Loa.Porter@ho-chunk.com or call 715-284-9343 Ext. 11280 for WebEx information.

SUMMONS
(Second Publication)

IN THE HO-CHUNK NATION TRIAL COURT

In the Interest of Minor Children: M.M., K-L.M., DOB 9/17/07, 11/10/2019

Case Nos.: CPL 25-07

TO THE PARENT, GUARDIAN, LEGAL OR PHYSICAL CUSTODIAN AND/OR TRADITIONAL RELATIVE(S): McKinley Mann

You are hereby informed that you have been deemed an interested party in the above-entitled juvenile protection case. This legal notice of the filed *Child/Family Protection Petition* is now served upon you by publication. A proceeding concerning the above-named children is pending in the Court, and an adjudication will be made. The Court shall convene a *Plea Hearing* in accordance with HOCAK NATION CHILDREN AND FAMILY ACT, Para. 3.41. Any parent(s), guardian(s) and/or person(s) having legal or physical custody of the children must personally appear along with the children at the *Hearing* described below.

The Court shall commence a proceeding at **11:00 a.m. CST** on the **18th day of November 2025** for the following purpose Child Custody And Placement Summons. Pursuant to HOCAK NATION CHILDREN AND FAMILY ACT, Para. 3.35, the parties have a right to counsel at their own expense; a right to confront and cross-examine those appearing against them; a right to present and subpoena witnesses; a right to substitution of judge; and a right to a jury trial.

NOTICE – VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS SUBJECT TO PROCEEDINGS FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT. SUBPOENAS: THE FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH A SUBPOENA SHALL SUBJECT THE PERSON FAILING TO COMPLY TO THE CONTEMPT POWER OF THE COURT! THE COURT MAY FIND ANY PARTY TO THIS MATTER IN CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT A COURT HEARING OR FOR FAILURE TO FOLLOW COURT ORDERS.

The Trial Court is physically located at Wa Ehi Hocira, W9598 Highway 54 East, Black River Falls, (Jackson County) Wisconsin. The Trial Court's mailing address is P. O. Box 70, Black River Falls, WI 54615. The telephone number is (715) 284-2722, or toll free 800-434-4070, and the facsimile number is (715) 284-3136.

**Notice of Vacancy and Deadline
For Districts 2**

**Election Board Delegate and Alternate
Term ending December 2027**

Districts	Number of Election Board Members	Alternate
Tomah	1	1
Lacrosse	1	1
Wisconsin Dells/Baraboo	1	1

TERMS: Election Board members may serve more than one term. This term ends December 2027.

NOMINATIONS: Each District must vote to select **one (1) Election Board Delegate** and **one (1) Alternate** during their **November or December 2025 monthly meeting**.

The District's meeting minutes must include the nominations for **Election Board Delegate** and **Alternate**. Minutes must be emailed to the **Election Board Office** no later than **4:00 PM on Wednesday, December 31, 2025**.

HO-CHUNK NATION ELECTION BOARD OFFICE
W8801 Mission Road
Black River Falls, WI. 54615
Email: election.board@ho-chunk.com
715/284-8900 • 800/890-0583

**HO-CHUNK NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING**



NOTICE OF VACANCY

The Department of Housing is seeking (1) D-1 Housing Board of Director

Duties:
 Be involved in the Department's strategic community housing plan
 Serve as a consultant during the development of the Department's annual goals and objectives required pursuant to the *Appropriations and Budget Process Act*.
 Serve in an advisory capacity on matters referred by the Executive Director of Housing.

Qualifications:
 Enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation
 Shall have the requisite skill, knowledge specific to housing
 Provide professional and expert advice and recommendations
 Board experience and having a flexible scheduling are beneficial to being appointed

Membership:
 Shall not be an employee of the Department of Housing
 Shall not be a member of more than two (2) department Boards of Directors
 Shall not be appointed nor serve as a member of a subordinate advisory board within the Department of Housing
 Shall not be appointed nor serve as a Commissioner of the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency

Term:
 Shall serve two (2) year terms and may serve for more than one (1) term. The term shall be alternated so that two (2) Directors are appointed or re-appointed after the first year and every two (2) years thereafter

If you have any questions or need additional information, you can reach me at (608) 374-1225 Ext: 15915 or via email Denise.Wright@ho-chunk.com

Thank you,
Denise Wright
 Executive Director
 Department of Housing

**HO-CHUNK NATION
LEGISLATURE
REGULAR MEETING
EXECUTIVE OFFICES
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI
OCTOBER 20, 2025**

Call to Order: Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call:

President Jon Greendeer-EX
Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr.-P
Rep. Phyllis Smoke-P
Rep. Tracy Thundercloud-P
Rep. Paul Fox-P
Rep. Damian Thundercloud-P
Rep. Stephanie Begay-P
Rep. Kyle White Eagle-P
Rep. Shelby Visintin-VC
Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle-P
Rep. Edward Mullen-P
Rep. David Greendeer-VC
Rep. Sandra Whitewing-VC

VC-Video Conference

Determination of Quorum: Quorum is established at 10:00 a.m.

Opening Prayer: Rep. Paul Fox offered a word of prayer.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the agenda with ADDING under New Business R. Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Social Services Division of Child and Family Services Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board to Apply for the Tribal Primary Prevention Grant and under District Meetings C. D3 Tešišik – October 8, 2025, D. D3 Pac cinąk – October 6, 2025, E. D3 Tee hoikšek – October 13, 2025, F. D3 Cexhaci – October 16, 2025, G. D2 Ho’uṇi Xunyñik – October 14, 2025, H. D2 Hoxajkeja/Hoguceja/ Njžakisuc – October 15, 2025, I. D1 Maṇjico Horuzra – October 16, 2025, J. D4 Virtual Meeting – October 15, 2025. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Legislative Meeting-October 7, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the October 7, 2025 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commission Reports:

Gaming Commission Report

A written report was received. Rep. Tracy Thundercloud requested the Commission to include deadline of projects within their report.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to accept the Gaming Commission Report. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Unfinished Business: No agenda items.

New Business:

Resolution-Rescission and Restatement of Resolution 07-02-25 E, Ho-Chunk Signature Authority

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 A**, Rescission and Restatement of Resolution 07-02-25 E, Ho-Chunk Signature Authority. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Appointment of Presiding Officers and Members to Standing Commissions of the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 B**, Appointment of Presiding Officers and Members to Standing Commissions of the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-National Congress of American Indians Tribal Membership Delegate Alternate Designation

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 C**, National Congress of American Indians Tribal Membership Delegate Alternate Designation. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Place Proposed Repeal of Ho-Chunk Nation Insurance Review Commission Establishment and Organization Act (1 HCC § 13) out for Public Comment

Rep. David Greendeer requested to list out what is functioning and what is not, in order to get better feedback from the public.

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 D**, Authorization to Place Proposed Repeal of Ho-Chunk Nation Insurance Review Commission Establishment and Organization Act (1 HCC § 13) out for Public Comment. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. MOTION IS AMENDED to include 30-day public comment. Second concurs. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for Paid Administrative Leave for Mending Broken Hearts Workshop

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 H**, Authorization for Paid Administrative Leave for Mending Broken Hearts Workshop. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Legislative Request to Amend the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution, and Conduct a Secretarial Election, Consistent with General Council Resolution 09.16.2023 G regarding the Modification of Blood Degree of Ho-Chunk Enrolled Members, to 4/4 Blood-Degree

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 E**, Authorization for the Department of Social Services to Participate in a Nationwide Elder Needs Assessment Funded by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration on Aging. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Drug Take Back Day Funding Request

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to approve \$300 from the Shawano County for the Drug Take Back

Day, with check made payable to Myrna Littlewolf. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Social Services Domestic Abuse Division to Apply for the Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of Crime Victim Services State Victim Services Grant

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 F**, Authorization for the Department of Social Services Domestic Abuse Division to Apply for the Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of Crime Victim Services State Victim Services Grant. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

There was brief discussion why this resolution became before the Legislature, as Resolution 10-07-25 L restated signature authority for grants that do not require matching funds. Attorney General Gardner stated that he will work with Office of the President on relaying this information to executive departments.

Resolution-Acceptance of the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency Indian Housing Plan for Fiscal Year 2026

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 G**, Acceptance of the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency Indian Housing Plan for Fiscal Year 2026. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for Paid Administrative Leave for Mending Broken Hearts Workshop

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 H**, Authorization for Paid Administrative Leave for Mending Broken Hearts Workshop. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Legislative Request to Amend the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution, and Conduct a Secretarial Election, Consistent with General Council Resolution 09.16.2023 G regarding the Modification of Blood Degree of Ho-Chunk Enrolled Members, to 4/4 Blood-Degree

Rep. Phyllis Smoke stated that this Resolution is a request to the Election Board to conduct a Secretarial Election to amend the HCN Constitution, to add language that reflects the policy direction of General Council Resolution 09.16.2023-G, which was adopted in 2023 and entitled “Resolution to Modify Blood Degree of Each and Every Person of Ho-Chunk Nation Indian Blood who was Duly Enrolled in the Ho-Chunk Nation on December 31, 1999, will now be considered a Full-Blood, or 4/4 Blood Degree.” Rep. Phyllis Smoke mentioned a few points about this GC Resolution:

- The 2023 GC Resolution did not ask the Legislature to seek a Secretarial Election

- Rather, the GC Resolution mandated that the Legislature change the Enrollment and Membership Code to reflect the change to 4/4 blood degree

- The Attorney General issued an Opinion finding that this change to the Enrollment Code could not be done, without violating the HCN Constitution.

- The Attorney General indicated that the Constitution would have to be amended first, to allow for such a change to be implemented.

In light of constitutional concerns, the Legislature did not take the action outlined in the 2023 GC Resolution. Rather, the Legislature adopted Resolution 10.31.23P, acknowledging the GC Resolution and referring it to a Legislative Workgroup to review the impacts of such an enrollment change on the Nation’s finances and programs. The Legislative Workgroup did discuss this and even went through an RFP process to select a vendor to do demographic and impact research. Although a vendor was unofficially selected, no contract was entered into. Thus, the effort was stopped.

Rep. Phyllis Smoke continued with points about the proposed Legislative Resolution/Request:

- The Request asks the Election Board to conduct a Secretarial Election to amend the Constitution, at a meeting of the General Council. This is an option under Section 21.e(3) of the Election Code.

- The Request is made pursuant to Article XIII, Sec. 2 of the Constitution. Here, the Legislature does have the right to make such a request to the Election Board. Two-thirds of the entire Legislature must approve such a request.

- The Request is also made under Section 21.c and 21.e(3) of the Election Code. The Code request that the actual text of the proposed amendment be stated in the Legislative Resolution. (This is on page 3 of the Legislative Resolution.) And the Certification must list the full vote total of the Legislature, indicating who was in favor, opposed, or abstained.

- The Request must also specify how the Secretarial Election should be conducted (i.e., mail ballot, in conjunction with a General Election, or in conjunction with an Annual GC meeting). Here, it has been drafted to be at the same time as a GC meeting.

Rep. Phyllis Smoke noted one correction to the Resolution in front of the Legislature today would be to add that the secretarial election would take place at the 2026 Annual General Council Meeting.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 I**, Legislative Request to Amend the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution, and Conduct a Secretarial Election, Consistent with General Council Resolution 09.16.2023 G regarding the

Modification of Blood Degree of Ho-Chunk Enrolled Members, to 4/4 Blood-Degree. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 11-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Jackson County

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 J**, Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Jackson County. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Tracy Thundercloud out of the room.

Resolution-Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Monroe County

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 K**, Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Monroe County. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Tracy Thundercloud out of the room.

Resolution-Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Sauk County

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 L**, Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Sauk County. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Tracy Thundercloud out of the room.

Resolution-Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Juneau County

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 M**, Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Juneau County. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Tracy Thundercloud out of the room.

Resolution-Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Shawano County

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 N**, Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Shawano County. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Paul Fox out of the room.

Resolution-Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Wood County

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 O**, Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Wood County. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Paul Fox out of the room. *Continued on Page 12*

Continued from Page 11

Resolution-Renewal of Ho-Chunk Nation Stop Loss Insurance Coverage

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 P**, Renewal of Ho-Chunk Nation Stop Loss Insurance Coverage. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Social Services Division of Child and Family Services Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board to Apply for the Tribal Primary Prevention Grant

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 Q**, Authorization for the Department of Social Services Division of Child and Family Services Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board to Apply for the Tribal Primary Prevention Grant. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 11-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED**.

District Meetings:

D1 Nijoxawani – October 8, 2025

READ FOR THE RECORD: **MOTION** by Henrietta Funmaker to approve paid administrative leave for all employees to attend the Mending Broken Hearts on October 21-27, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

READ FOR THE RECORD: **MOTION** by Tina McArthur to approve the Jackson County Law Enforcement Agreement.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to Department of Business, Office of the President, Department of Health, and Environmental Health, the **MOTION** by Karena Thundercloud to go with Whitetail Crossing location option 2 with environmental studies to be done prior to and with regular monitoring. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**. Rep. Kyle White Eagle out of the room.

READ FOR THE RECORD: **MOTION** by Nathaniel Longtail to have District 1 Legislators support Rep. Tracy Thundercloud from excluding him from Executive Session for his refusal to sign the oath of confidentiality form in Legislature.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to Legislature and the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Lori Pettibone to have Legislature provide her with an attorney to take this General Council resolution to tribal court. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-0-2(Rep. Shelby Visintin, Rep. Kyle White Eagle) **MOTION CARRIED**.

READ FOR THE RECORD: **MOTION** by JoVanna White Eagle to have Legislature come back next month on the decision to provide an attorney for Lori Pettibone at the next District Meeting.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to Office of the President and Department of Treasury the **MOTION** by JoVanna White Eagle to change the irrevocable consent form from General Welfare until their debt to the Nation is paid in full, since you can't change this form, then allow tribal members to apply for the tribal loan without this form. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to Office of the President, Department of Housing, the Housing Commission, and for review of the Housing Rental Code, the **MOTION** by Henrietta Funmaker to have a forgiveness plan for housing, this would be for people in recovery to be able to obtain housing. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to Legislature the **MOTION** by Nathaniel Longtail for the District 1 Legislators to not support the sale of any lands in state or out of state based on constitutional grounds Article V Section 2 (m). Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the Legislature and Office of the President the **MOTION** by Nathaniel Longtail to enforce the confirmation act to be followed to a "T" like how it was enforced on President White Eagle's administration. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

D4 Gyušgonqk – October 14, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Sunshine Thunderchief for Casey and Tonia for HCN to cover expenses for the Truman Lowe exhibition at the National Museum of American Indian. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Legislature the **MOTION** by Casey Brown District 4 implores the Legislature to uphold the will of the General Council, the body that grants power to the Legislature. The General Council voted for the Ho-Chunk Nation to not sell land we steward and own. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

NOTED FOR THE RECORD: Rep. Phyllis Smoke mentioned General Council Resolution 09-27-14-02 Binding Policy Recommendation to Review and Reverse Actions of the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature to Immediately Sell Chicago Properties Known as Southland passed.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to the next Finance Commission meeting the **MOTION** by Casey Brown \$3,000 for the Chicago BO party. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

READ FOR THE RECORD: **MOTION** by Sunshine

Thunderchief to nominate Victoria Stacy-Goodthunder.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Legislature the **MOTION** by Ben Krause for the legislative body to support the Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Chicago HHCDA Board Members in retaining their seats and the preservation of tens of millions in financial assistance. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

D2 Hoxajkeja/Hoguceja/ Njžhakisūc – October 15, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to the HHCDA Board of Commissioners the **MOTION** by Sunshine Thunderchief for Kelly Jo Funmaker to be removed as Chairperson for HHCDA due to actions that are unconstitutional and disenfranchisement for tribal members that should be covered under federal law. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

D3 Tešišik – October 8, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Shelby Visintin to refer to Legislature and HHCDA the **MOTION** by Kayla Meyer for HHCDA to do all programs for representation for Milwaukee. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

D3 Pac cinqk – October 6, 2025

READ FOR THE RECORD: **MOTION** by Fran Littlewolf to approve the Law Enforcement Agreement with Shawano County.

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to Department of Administration, Planning and Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority the **MOTION** by Caroline Koukos for the Robin Road signs changed and new signs put up for safety of head start and community members entering on Robin Road from Radtke Road, Siga Funmaker Community Center and from Morajega Road. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

D3 Tee hoikšek – October 13, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to Department of Housing the **MOTION** by Pamela Wilber for any remaining homes, vacant in the future in Green Bay, be for Green Bay residents only. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

D3 Cexhaci – October 16, 2025

No motions.

D2 Ho'uni Xununyik – October 14, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to refer to the next Finance Commission meeting the **MOTION** by Desirae Pettibone to reaffirm the August funding request for Native Women Run of \$1,688. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to refer to Office of the President the **MOTION** by Rachel Winneshiek for Office

of the President Personnel to come down to give the Tomah Community answers regarding HCN Department of Housing at the next area meeting. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

D2 Hoxajkeja/Hoguceja/ Njžhakisūc – October 15, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to Office of the President and Department of Health the **MOTION** by Christine Funmaker-Romano for Environmental Health Director report to the next area meeting to discuss safety and wellbeing. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to the District 2 Reps the **MOTION** by Christine Funmaker-Romano for District 2 Representatives to inquire with Department of Housing & HHCDA on solar panels to be fixed or removed and have a viable plan. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to the District 2 Reps the **MOTION** by Robert Funmaker for District 2 Representatives to inquire with HHCDA Board Secretary regarding absences of the Juneau and Sauk county commissioners' absences. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

NOTED FOR THE RECORD: Robert Funmaker would like more information given at area meeting reports. Also the community feels they are not receiving adequate information given all the meetings occurring and the absences by commissioners at area meetings.

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to Legislature, TAU and Elder Advisory Board the **MOTION** by Christine Funmaker-Romano for all elders to be eligible for \$25,000 lifetime benefit for elder homeowners be available for all elders. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-1(Rep. Shelby Visintin) **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to the District 2 Reps the **MOTION** by Robert Funmaker for the Legislature to schedule a tour of the Foremost Building for the community and to start to have discussions or options for the community's usage plan with treatment centers and community. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to the District 2 Reps the **MOTION** by Priscilla Constancio for the D4 legislators to travel to California for tribal member outreach. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**. Rep. Edward Mullen out of the room.

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to the District 2 Reps and Legislative Legal the **MOTION** by Robert Funmaker for HCN Legislature to take appropriate action up to removal regarding HHCDA Board of Commissioners. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to Office of the President and Department of Justice the **MOTION** by

Christine Funmaker-Romano for Legislature present this to Executive branch for Department of Justice and HHCDA to come up with a plan for surveillance cameras in the areas. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to Legislature and Office of the President the **MOTION** by Barb Funmaker in the entirety of the HCN we should wholly reject to sell Southland. As it goes against financial, cultural and traditional. Southland is valuable piece of property with 120 acres. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to add that Joyce Warner was the second to the motion on the second page of the October 15, 2025 D2 Hoxajkeja/Hoguceja/Njžhakisūc meeting minutes. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

D1 Magnico Horuzra – October 16, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the next Finance Commission meeting and Department of Business the **MOTION** by Libby Fairchild to approve the Holiday party request on an expedited basis, in the amount of \$1,600. This event is scheduled for December 2025. The check will be made out to Victoria Fox and reconciled through Treasury. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**. Rep. Edward Mullen out of the room.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to Legislature, HHCDA and Housing Commission the **MOTION** by Rosetta Hunt to have HHCDA create a program to purchase land with a goal to build housing for tribal members in the Chicago, Milwaukee and Twin Cities areas. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**. Rep. Edward Mullen out of the room.

D4 Virtual Meeting – October 15, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Priscilla Constancio for the D4 legislators to travel to California for tribal member outreach. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 11-0-1(Rep. Shelby Visintin) **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Legislature the **MOTION** by Rachel Cloud for legislative body to support the Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Chicago HHCDA Board Members in retaining their seats and the preservation of tens of millions in financial assistance. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Legislature the **MOTION** by Rachel Cloud for Legislature use their legislative power to act on; intervention to investigate and apply applicable laws to the HHCDA board and chairperson. Second by Rep. Continued on Page 13

Continued from Page 12
Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Executive Session (Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being):

MOTION by Rep. Rep. Paul Fox to move to Executive Session for Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 11:38 a.m., and Rep. Kyle White Eagle is excused for the remainder of the meeting.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to return to Open Session. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting returned to Open Session at 3:19 p.m.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie

Begay to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Release to Open Session:

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 R**, Funding of Department of Business Cinema Capital Project and release to Open Session. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. **SECOND IS WITHDRAWN.** Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 6-2(Rep. Tracy Thundercloud, Rep. David Greendeer)-4(Rep. Edward Mullen, Rep. Shelby Visintin, Rep. Phyllis Smoke, Rep. Sandra Whitewing) **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to release all the financial information on the Lynwood properties, from legal fees, maintenance, reimbursements, utilities, taxes, contracts, vendors, etc., released from executive session to be placed in the Worak for all tribal members to see the cost of Lynwood. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 3-7(Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr., Rep. Tracy Thundercloud, Rep. Damian Thundercloud, Rep. Edward Mullen, Rep. David Greendeer,

Rep. Sandra Whitewing, Rep. Shelby Visintin)-0 **MOTION DEFEATED.** Rep. Stephanie Begay is out of the room.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to release the above motion to Open Session. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-1(Rep. Stephanie Begay) **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Tracy Thundercloud out of the room now.

NOTED FOR THE RECORD: Rep. Stephanie Begay stated she abstained because she was out of the room during the last motion.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to release both of the Rep. Phyllis Smoke motions related to Lynwood from the October 7, 2025 Executive Session to Open Session. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Stephanie Begay out of the room.

The following motions were made at the October 7, 2025 Legislative Executive Session, and were released to Open Session during the October 20, 2025 Legislative Executive Session:

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to have Legislative Legal to start the process of eviction of individual residing at 1840 Glenwood Dyer Road under the laws of the State of Illinois and local rules of Cook County and authorize working with Quarles as needed; this includes authorization to work the Lynwood Police if necessary; release to appropriate parties. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to have Quarles complete an appraisal of 1840 Glenwood Dyer Road done after the eviction process is complete and release to appropriate parties. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 8-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Amendment to the Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to re-visit the D1 Maanico Horuzra – October 16, 2025 district meeting minutes. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

District Meetings (Re-visited):

D1 Maanico Horuzra – October 16, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the next Finance Commission meeting the **MOTION** by Rosetta Hunt to request Legislature to donate \$10,000 from Charitable Contributions to Western Alaskan Disaster Relief Fund. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjournment:

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to November 4, 2025 at the All Nations Indian Church in Minneapolis. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 5-6(Rep. Stephanie Begay, Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr., Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle, Rep. Damian Thundercloud, Rep. Sandra Whitewing, Rep. Shelby Visintin)-0 **MOTION DEFEATED.**

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to November 4, 2025 at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-1(Rep. Paul Fox)-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

**HO-CHUNK NATION
LEGISLATURE
REGULAR MEETING
EXECUTIVE OFFICES
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI
NOVEMBER 4, 2025**

Call to Order: President Jon Greendeer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call:

President Jon Greendeer-P
Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr.-VC
Rep. Phyllis Smoke-P
Rep. Tracy Thundercloud-P
Rep. Paul Fox-P
Rep. Damian Thundercloud-P
Rep. Stephanie Begay-P
Rep. Kyle White Eagle-EX
Rep. Shelby Visintin-VC
Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle-P
Rep. Edward Mullen-EX
Rep. David Greendeer-VC
Rep. Sandra Whitewing-VC

VC-Video Conference

Determination of Quorum: Quorum is established at 10:01 a.m.

Opening Prayer: Rep. Paul Fox offered a word of prayer.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the agenda with MOVING UP New Business A. Wisconsin Conservation Voters Letter of Support-Private Well Owners Have a Right to Know What's in Their Water and B. Presentation: Employer Sponsored Part D Plan to after Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes; ADDING under New Business I. Resolution-Establishment and Funding of Temporary Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (T-SNAP) Restricted Account and J. Resolution-Establishment of Temporary Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program, and under District Meetings C. D3 Pac cinąk. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Legislative Meeting-October 20, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the October 20, 2025 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

New Business:

Wisconsin Conservation Voters Letter of Support-Private Well Owners Have a Right to Know What's in Their Water

Anne Egan-Waukau, Wisconsin Native Vote Communications Manager & Tribal Organizer, was present via video conference and emphasized the importance of the Right to Know Bill.

MOTION by Rep. Shelby Visintin for the Vice President to sign off on the petition. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Presentation: Employer Sponsored Part D Plan

Aaron Viertel, Gallagher Area Vice President, was online. Mr. Viertel stated that Gallagher was tasked with finding an alternative way to fund the Part D program for elders, and is presenting Employer Group Waiver Plan (EGWP), which is a direct connection where elders would have medications covered through Part D and we would customize the benefit so that it would match their benefit today. This would save the Nation \$3-3.5 million in 2026. It is important to note that the number of elders have increased, reaching close to 1,000 members within the next 2-3 years.

Resolution-Approval of Employer Group Waiver Plan-Elders

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 A**, Approval of Employer Group Waiver Plan-Elders. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commission Reports:

Health, Insurance, Education and Social Services Commission-October 27, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to approve the October 27, 2025 Health, Insurance, Education and Social Services Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with School District of Reedsburg

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 B**, Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with School District of Reedsburg. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with School District of Holmen

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 C**, Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with School District of Holmen. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Place the Charitable Request Act (4 HCC § 8) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 D**, Authorization to Place the Charitable Request Act (4 HCC § 8) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Place the Disability Request Act (4 HCC § 13) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 E**, Authorization to Place the Disability Request Act (4 HCC § 13) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Place the Child Support Code (4 HCC § 7) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 F**, Authorization to Place the Child Support Code (4 HCC § 7) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Development Commission-October 28, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to approve the October 28, 2025 Development Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Finance Commission-October 30, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the October 30, 2025 Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Ho-Chunk Economic Assistance for Adults and Minors

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 G**, Ho-Chunk Economic Assistance for Adults and Minors. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Employee Appreciation

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 H**, Employee Appreciation. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Deduct Amounts from Annual Gaming Compact Payment for the Hatfield Fire and Rescue

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 I**, Authorization to Deduct Amounts from Annual Gaming Compact Payment for the Hatfield Fire and Rescue. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Place the General Welfare Exclusion Ordinance (4 HCC § 17) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 J**, Authorization to Place the General Welfare Exclusion Ordinance (4 HCC § 17) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Unfinished Business: No Unfinished Business

New Business (Continued):

Resolution-Authorization for the Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority to Apply for 2026 Tribal Transportation Facility Bridge Program

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Continued on Page 14

Continued from Page 13

Begay to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 K**, Authorization for the Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority to Apply for 2026 Tribal Transportation Facility Bridge Program. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority to Enter into a Cooperative Agreement with Clark County, WI County Highway G Bridge Construction Project over the Black River

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 L**, Authorization for the Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority to Enter into a Cooperative Agreement with Clark County, WI County Highway G Bridge Construction Project over the Black River. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority to Enter into a Cooperative Agreement with Clark County, WI County Highway M Bridge Construction Project South Fork of Eau Claire River

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 M**, Authorization for the Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority to Enter into a Cooperative Agreement with Clark County, WI County Highway M Bridge Construction Project South Fork of Eau Claire River. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Granting a Right-of-Way to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Road Construction on the District 2 Walking Trail

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 N**, Granting a Right-of-Way to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Road Construction on the District 2 Walking Trail. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Signature Authority for Requests for Loans Pursuant to the KeyBank Loan

Agreement

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 O**, Signature Authority for Requests for Loans Pursuant to the KeyBank Loan Agreement. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Elder #2376 Request

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to approve Elder #2376 once in a lifetime benefit of \$25,000 through TAU payable to the vendor Home Depot, in the amount of \$25,000 and that the tribal member is responsible for the remainder of the bill from the vendor. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. **MOTION IS AMENDED** to include a funding source of the elder home repair fund. Second concurs. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Home Depot is the lowest bid submitted, at \$27,286.53.

NOTED FOR THE RECORD: Rep. Phyllis Smoke thanked TAU for their assistance. Rep. Phyllis Smoke stated that TAU reached out to the elder and discussed the proposal and installation and the elder is aware of the difference of the balance of the invoice.

Resolution-Establishment and Funding of Temporary Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (T-SNAP) Restricted Account

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 P**, Establishment and Funding of Temporary Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (T-SNAP) Restricted Account. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Establishment of Temporary Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 Q**, Establishment of Temporary Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D3 Pac cinqk – March 10, 2025

District Meetings:

D2 Hinukwas- October 20, 2025

No motions.

D3 Tejop – October 15, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Marlys Whiteagle to increase the Madison Area Meeting food budget to \$300. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Marlys Whiteagle to bring back payouts at area meetings. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to Office of the President and Department of Business the **MOTION** by Shane Funmaker for the EM to attend the next Madison Area Meeting. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to Office of the President and Department of Business the **MOTION** by Shane Funmaker for the Executive Director of Business, Rob Mudd to attend the next Madison Area Meeting. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to the Office of General Council the **MOTION** by Marlys Whiteagle for Henry White Thunder to attend the next Madison Area Meeting. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to General Council Workgroup, Legislators and Legislative Legal the **MOTION** by Marlys Whiteagle to bring GCA back according to the Constitution. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D3 Pac cinqk – March 10, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to legal to draft a letter of approval and VP to sign regarding the **MOTION** by Shelby Wulf to allow the Wittenberg Snowmobile Club to cross Ho-Chunk lands for the 2025-2026 season. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Executive Session (Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being:

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to move to Executive Session for Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Shelby Visintin is not online.

p.m.

Executive Session (Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being:

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to move to Executive Session for Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Shelby Visintin is not online.

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 12:32 p.m.

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to return to Open Session. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting returned to Open Session at 2:28 p.m.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Release to Open Session:

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 11-04-25 S**, Recission and Restatement of Resolution 02-06-24 Q Authorizing Acceptance of Fractional Interest of Jesse Awonohopay in the Smoke Allotment and Request for Withdrawal of ILCA Land Purchase Funds for Restricted Tract # 439 247, and release to Open Session. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-1(Rep. Phyllis Smoke) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjournment:

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to November 18, 2025 at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE REGULAR MEETING EXECUTIVE OFFICES BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI NOVEMBER 18, 2025

Call to Order: Rep. David Greendeer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call:

President Jon Greendeer-EX
Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr.-EX
Rep. Phyllis Smoke-EX
Rep. Tracy Thundercloud-P
Rep. Paul Fox-P
Rep. Damian Thundercloud-P
Rep. Stephanie Begay-VC
Rep. Kyle White Eagle-P
Rep. Shelby Visintin-VC
Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle-EX
Rep. Edward Mullen-VC
Rep. David Greendeer-VC
Rep. Sandra Whitewing-VC

VC-Video Conference

Determination of Quorum: Quorum is established at 10:01 a.m.

Opening Prayer: Rep. Paul Fox offered a word of prayer.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Legislative Meeting-November 4, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the November 4, 2025 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-1(Rep. Shelby Visintin) **MOTION CARRIED.**

CARRIED.

Commission Reports:

Government Administration Commission-November 6, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the November 6, 2025 Government Administration Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Housing Commission-November 13, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the November 13, 2025 Housing Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-1(Rep. Shelby Visintin) **MOTION CARRIED.**

HHCDA Heating Assistance Program Reconciliation

MOTION by Rep. Shelby Visintin to accept the HHCDA Heating Assistance Program 2025 reconciliation report and request that the \$12,000 remaining be returned to the Nation's General Fund. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 8-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Gaming Commission Report

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to accept the Gaming Commission report. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Unfinished Business: No agenda items.

New Business:

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Social Services to Participate in a Nationwide Elder Needs Assessment Funded by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Administration on Aging

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to adopt **Resolution 11-18-25 A**, Authorization for the Department of Social Services to Participate in a Nationwide Elder Needs Assessment Funded by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration on Aging. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for Paid Administrative Leave for Tomah Area School District Native American Heritage Month

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 11-18-25 B**, Authorization for Paid Administrative Leave for Tomah Area School District Native American Heritage Month. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

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Continued from Page 14
Resolution-Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency 2026 Community Development Block Grant Public Facilities Services Project Certification of Citizen Participation Requirement

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to adopt **Resolution 11-18-25 C**, Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency 2026 Community Development Block Grant Public Facilities Services Project Certification of Citizen Participation Requirement. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

Resolution-Delegating Signature Authority to Pharmacy Director for Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Agreement

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to adopt **Resolution 11-18-25 D**, Delegating Signature Authority to Pharmacy Director for Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Agreement. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

Resolution-Delegating Signature Authority to Pharmacy Director for Beacon Channel Management Agreement

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to adopt **Resolution 11-18-25 E**, Delegating Signature Authority to Pharmacy Director for Beacon Channel Management Agreement. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

District Meetings:

D1 Nijoxawani - November 12, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud to refer to Youth Services, Department of Social Services and Office of the President the MOTION by Darcy Funmaker to have Youth Services Division Funding be restored in full to pre-pandemic funding, which would include 4 days per week of services. Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud to refer to Youth Services, Department of Social Services and Office of the President the MOTION by Darcy Funmaker to have continued status updates on Youth Services funding increase, to provide youth with programming focusing on culture, drug prevention and feeding our youth. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud to refer to Legislature and workgroup the MOTION by Wilfrid Cleveland to have Legislature make the ICWA issue a priority to implement change. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud to refer to the Office of General Council the MOTION by Jovanna White Eagle to have Office of General Council submit funding in the

line item for an attorney in their annual budgets, forever and ever. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

D1 Mqanico Horuzra - November 13, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to the Finance Commission the MOTION by Libby Fairchild to have the Ho-Chunk Nation donate \$25,000 for the Montessori American Indian Childcare Center to assist with purchasing the Oyate Ota Center. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to HHCDA, Department of Housing, Office of the President and Department of Justice the MOTION by Rosetta Hunt to develop a protocol for HHCDA and/or HOP Housing that creates a system or procedure to gain residential access for welfare checks for elders, vulnerable adults and disabled people who live in HHCDA and/or HOP housing. Further consult with DOJ on implementing this procedure. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

D2 Hinyukwas- November 10, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to refer to the Legislature the MOTION by Tracy Littlejohn for Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature to review the HHCDA Charter of Incorporation amending Board of Commissioners only represent counties included the Ho-Chunk formula area. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

D2 Hoxajkeja/Hoguceja/ Nizhakisuc - November 12, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to refer to the Finance Commission the MOTION by Cindy Tack to approve funding request of \$22,000 payable to Lyndon Station Fire Department. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

READ FOR THE RECORD: MOTION by Christine Funmaker-Romano to tour the Foremost building on 11/19 9am-2pm with a healthy discussion and consensus.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to refer to the January 6, 2026 Legislative Meeting agenda the MOTION by Heather Cloud for the Legislature to hear proposals from the community for Penny Lane property for the 1/6/26 Legislative Meeting. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to refer to Department of Justice and the Election Board the MOTION by Heather Cloud to reappoint Weeta Montelongo as the delegate and Barb Funmaker as alternate. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. MOTION IS AMENDED to refer to Legislative Legal to draft a resolution for next session and refer this to Election Board. Second concurs. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

Note: This motion is in regards to the Election Board.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to refer to LDT and D2 Reps. the MOTION by Heather Cloud to support Christine Funmaker-Romano's Common Ground initiative to be granted leases for lots 24 and 25 in Indian Heights. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

READ FOR THE RECORD:

MOTION by Robert Funmaker for Neeshla powwow to open for selection at next month's area meeting.

D2 Ho'uni Xunyujik - November 13, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to the Election Board and to Legislative Legal to draft resolutions for next session the MOTION by Steve Eades to reappoint Myra Jo Price as a delegate and Deana Mitch as the alternate for the Election Board. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 8-0-1(Rep. Stephanie Begay) **MOTION CARRIED**.

Rep. Stephanie Begay abstained as her mother was the second to the motion at the area meeting.

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to Legislature the MOTION by Liza Green for the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature to amend the HHCDA Charter of Incorporation regarding the Board of Commissioners for representation from the following 8 counties; La Crosse, Monroe, Wood, Shawano, Jackson, Sauk, Juneau and Dane. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 6-3(Rep. Tracy Thundercloud, Rep. Edward Mullen, Rep. Shelby Visintin)-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

D3 Pac cinak - November 10, 2025

No motions.

D3 Tee hoiksek - November 4, 2025

No motions.

D3 Tešišik - November 5, 2025

READ FOR THE RECORD: MOTION by Cheri Byhre to increase the elder Property tax to \$5,000.

D3 Tejop - November 12, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Shelby Visintin to refer to HHCDA the MOTION by Muriel Whiteagle-Lee to ensure that there is a protocol in HHCDA to enter the homes after hours. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Shelby Visintin to refer to Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority the MOTION by Marlys Whiteagle to expedite the parking lot project. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Shelby Visintin to refer to Office of the President and Department of Heritage Preservation the MOTION by Brenda Neff to move forward with getting an apprentice for the Teejop

Branch Office. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Shelby Visintin to refer to Legislature and the workgroup the MOTION by Marlys Whiteagle to form and reform the General Council Agency and its members. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

D3 Cexhaci - November 13, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Shelby Visintin to refer this along to Office of the President, DOA and Michael Rave the MOTION by Ona Garvin to thank Kimberly Whitewater for redoing the floors and painting the walls. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Shelby Visintin to refer to HHCDA, Department of Housing and Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority the MOTION by Ona Garvin that each of the households be told individually in regard to whether they want speed bumps in the Ceek Ha Chee area. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

D4 Guusgonaq - November 10, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to the Gaming Commission, Legislature and Office of the President the MOTION by Ben Krause that the Ho-Chunk Nation direct the appropriate offices (including the Gaming Commission and Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature and Ho-Chunk Nation Executive branch) to draft, within 90 days, a standardized Gaming Exclusion Act/Ordinance applicable to all Ho-Chunk gaming properties and any future sports-wagering or mobile platforms in anticipation of potential legalization in Wisconsin. The draft shall:

(1) define self-exclusion and involuntary exclusion categories (including advantage play that eliminates the house edge, fraud, cheating, and related conduct); (2) establish due-process protections (written notice, stated grounds, appeal procedures, time-limited terms, and periodic review); (3) address reciprocity with other jurisdictions where lawful; and (4) include an implementation and reporting plan for compliance, training, and community outreach. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Legislature the MOTION by Ben Krause to move Southland outlying area into non-gaming trust land. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Legislature the MOTION by Ben Krause if legislature continues the path to sell Southland outlying area that HCN negotiates and gives preference to HCN tribal members before it goes public to purchase for either lease or sale at a minimal cost. Tribal members would assume liability and taxes for the property once purchase is complete. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

MOTION CARRIED.

READ FOR THE RECORD: MOTION by Ben Krause for HCN to include all states/D4 for tribal members to receive supplemental SNAP support.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Office of the President and the Finance Commission the MOTION by Ben Krause for HCN Legislature to allocate funds to the HCN Department of Education in haste. These funds can come out of the gaming compact contributions, tobacco rebate, Pepsi sales, unexpended funds. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

The Chicago meeting minutes noted that Ron Perry was voted into the Election Board alternate position 9-5-1.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Legislative Legal to draft a resolution for next session. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

D4 Virtual Meeting - November 12, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Election Board and Department of Justice the MOTION by Victoria Stacy Goodthunder Stacy for the election board to be held on the third week of the month and for the election board to be utilizing the HCN facilities such as community buildings, tribal offices, and casinos. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

Executive Session (Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being:

MOTION by Rep. Rep. Paul Fox to move to Executive Session for Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being.

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 10:54 a.m.

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to return to Open Session. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

The meeting returned to Open Session at 1:38 p.m.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

Adjournment:

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to December 9, 2025 at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

OUR PEOPLE, OUR RECOVERY

THUNDERMAKER

CULTURE * HEALING * SUBSTANCE USE & MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS*

A SOLUTION AS BIG AS THE PROBLEM

Culture is Healing

In a time when mainstream behavioral health systems have failed to reflect our cultural ways, Thundermaker Wellness rises as a powerful force for change, challenging the norms and reshaping the care our people deserve.

Rooted in the belief that healing must honor tradition, identity, and experience, Thundermaker Wellness offers behavioral health services specifically designed for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) individuals. Their approach blends contemporary clinical practices with ancestral wisdom, where Indigenous values—storytelling, language, food sovereignty, and ceremony—are not just included, but foundational.

Thundermaker isn't just a name, it's a powerful vision of two Ho-Chunk changemakers: Hunter Thundercloud and Arrow Funmaker. The creation of Thundermaker emerged from a serendipitous meeting and discovery that they shared a deeply aligned vision of changing the landscape of treatment for our people. Taking action on their vision, Thundermaker Wellness was created, honoring their names, strength, and hope for the future of care.

"We know that our culture is healing," says Hunter Thundercloud, Founder and longtime advocate for culturally informed behavioral health systems. "We're not just treating symptoms—we're building leaders through cultural identity." Thundermaker supports individuals with substance use and mental health challenges through a holistic lens. Every relative who walks through their doors is met with dignity, respect, and support for their cultural integration. Healing is defined by the individual, and Thundermaker provides the tools and guidance to help each person reach their full potential in recovery.

"We know what it's like to carry the weight of intergenerational trauma," shares Arrow Funmaker, Co-Founder and Chief Cultural Integration Officer. "But we also know the power of becoming living examples of intergenerational healing and knowledge."

Thundermaker Wellness remains steadfast in its mission, serving tribal nations as a resource for culturally grounded care. As behavioral health systems grow, and cases of substance use and mental health issues continue to rise, Thundermaker offers a solution as big as the problem.

"It is time to stop talking about the problem & start working towards a solution."



The road to healing begins now and you deserve to define what healing means to you. If you or someone you love is struggling with substance use or mental health issues, Thundermaker is here to help.

For more information or to connect with Thundermaker Wellness, tribal members and providers are encouraged to reach out directly to the contact information below.
www.thundermakerwellness.com
admin@thundermakerwellness.com
(928) 493-4300