Eight Candidates Advance To General Election

Voters of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community cast their ballots at the November 4, 2017, Primary Election, advancing eight candidates to the Tribe’s General Election. Baraga District Precinct was held at the Ojibwa Senior Center, and L’Anse District Precinct was located at the Zeba Community Hall. Voters cast their ballot for two individuals in their district, allowing for the top four vote getters to advance. The General Election will be held on Saturday, December 16, 2017. Results are:

**Baraga District results:**
- Doreen Blaker (Inc.) 109 votes
- Robert “Robbie” Mayo 36 votes
- Kim Klopstein 50 votes
- Mike P. Lahti 76 votes

**L’Anse District results:**
- Randy Haataja (Inc.) 59 votes
- Lyndon Ekdahl 36 votes
- Jean Jokinen 29 votes
- Chris C. Voakes 34 votes

**COPS DONATE FOR A GOOD CAUSE**

Proceeds from the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Police Casual Friday and No-Shave November Campaigns were donated to Tribal Social Services as part of their 2017 fundraising efforts to give presents to needy children within our community this holiday season. It’s nice to know that walking around in jeans and a beard can help a good cause. In all, $226.00 was donated to help insure that no child in our community goes without a Merry Christmas this year.

**ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS WILL BE PERMITTED TO VOTE. (Per Election Ordinance).**
President's Report for the Month of October 2017

The past few months have been very busy in the Office of the President. The following activities are intended to summarize the activities related to this office.

- The beginning of October started with our Annual Harvest Feast. That event was held in conjunction with our monthly council meeting. One of the highlights of the meeting was to hear from our Congressional Representative Jack Bergman. In addition to Mr. Bergman’s good words, everyone who attended was able to sit down to a meal family and friends. Chi Migwech to everyone who helped in one way or another.

- A couple days later here at the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, we had the honor of hosting the annual Michigan Indian Elders Association meeting. I attended sessions and was able to watch the inimitable Native American Code Talkers perform their explanation related to the Sand Hill Crane hunting season. Apparently, the Michigan Natural Resources Commission is considering an open hunting season for Sand Hill Cranes. The MIEA is opposed to the hunting of these birds.

- The next day I traveled to Shelbyville, Michigan, to attend the United Tribes of Michigan meeting.

- We elected executive officers who are the same as last year.

- We passed Resolutions supporting funding of the USDA Tribal Food Program. Discussions before United States Congress call for adding an employment requirement and initiate block granting of these programs that would funnel funding of Native American Nations who utilize the food programs. Congressional support is essential to the funding of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians $330,000.00. It is not appropriate to ask sovereign tribal governments to apply for a program through a state agency. We also called upon Congress to fund the USDA Food Program at a minimum level of $400,000.00.

- We passed a Resolution supporting an amendment to the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act PL 113-168 to recognize the treatment of income for purposes of benefits eligibility. The Act enables the Tribe to provide certain benefits to its members through either direct payment or by the payment of a trifecta. The IRS issued additional guidance, making it clear that general welfare is not to be included as income. The State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services cannot include general welfare payments as income to Tribal members from income. The Resolution supports passage of legislation to amend the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act to ensure that Tribal benefits are excluded for purposes of State and Federal benefits eligibility. This is a legislative fix to ensure that such payments are excluded for the purpose of benefits eligibility.

- It was reported that KBCI had 327 applications for the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver, and 323 were verified.
There are a number of reasons an applicant could be denied, including: an incomplete application, not an enrolled tribal member, school is not a public institution, student doesn’t meet ¼-blood quantum, or the student is not a Michigan resident.

We continue to attend VOIGT and GLIFWC Board of Commissioners meetings. These meetings help us to monitor treaty-protected activities throughout the ceded territories.

I participated in a number of meetings related to the community’s tobacco manufacturing. We had our site visit and are now waiting for a favorable opinion allowing us to open the doors and begin the manufacturing process.

I attended a retirement party for Carole LaPointe. The party was held at the Donald A. LaPointe Health Center. A number of people spoke about the good things Carole has accomplished over the years. I took the opportunity to thank Carole for her dedicated service and wished her well in her retirement.

I participated in an interview conducted by one of our own Tribal members. Mitch Bolo interviewed me and asked me a number of questions related to Office of the President. Mitch said the interview is part of a college project, and when he’s finished, people will be able to view it.

I signed an independent contractor agreement between the Community and Lauri Denomie for her services as the Community’s Newsletter Editor.

We met with State Representative Scott Dianda and Representatives from the Highland Copper Mining Company to discuss their operations in the Western U.P. In May of 2017, Highland Copper acquired from Kennecott Exploration Company and Rio Tinto Nickel Company (“RTX”), subsidiaries of the Rio Tinto Group, mineral properties covering approximately 447,842 acres in the Upper Peninsula of the State of Michigan, U.S.A.

As I sit before you Mr. Chairman, with my fellow witnesses from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, given at the Senate hearing.

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U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI) (left), Ranking Member of the Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee, hosted Warren “Chris” Swartz, Jr. (right), President of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC), at a subcommittee hearing held at the Donald A. LaPointe Health Center. A number of people spoke about the good things Carole has accomplished over the years. I took the opportunity to thank Carole for her dedicated service and wished her well in her retirement.

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Good afternoon Chairman Sullivan, Ranking Member Peters, and members of the subcommittee. My name is Chris Swartz, and I am the President of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community is located on the L’Anse Indian Reservation, Michigan’s largest and oldest reservation. We live on the shores of Lake Superior’s Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Thank you very much for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I am here today representing my Tribe. We are not the only federally recognized tribe that is deeply concerned about the protection of our natural resources, so we may exercise our treaty rights. The threats to those rights and intergovernmental co-management are important to all eleven tribes who are members of an organization called the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission is an extremely important organization made up of eleven Ojibwa tribes (the UPX properties). The acquisition of the UPX properties establishes Highland as a dominant mining exploration and development company in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and offers the opportunity to build a pipeline of projects that could be developed in the future. There are many potential problems for KBIC, including potential for ON-RESERVATION MINING in the company’s plans. These issues have not been fully vetted yet and require ongoing monitoring to keep up with the activities of Highland Copper.

I participated in a number of meetings related to Buffalo Reef in raising awareness to this issue and advocating that the EPA take steps to remediate the impacts of the Gay stamp sands on the Buffalo Reef.

We need a long term strategy to address this issue.

We need consistent, sufficient funding to help us bring good science and policy to the table.

Advocate for a Task Force to be formed with State, Federal, and Tribal government to develop a long-term strategy to address these issues.

The culmination of those meetings resulted in my testimony in Washington D.C. to the Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard with the United States Senate.

The topic for the Subcommittee was titled “Exploring Native American Subsistence Rights and International Treaties” on October 31, 2017, at the Russell Senate Office Building, Room 253. See article that contains my oral testimony and written comments given at the Senate hearing.

Respectfully submitted,
Warren C. Swartz
President Warren “Chris” Swartz, Jr. Testimony to the Senate continued:

fishing front. Today as a result of mining activity in our ceded territory, there is an ever increasing direct threat to the fishery resources on Lake Superior, especially to Lake Trout and Whitefish. A highly important Whitefish and Lake Trout spawning reef near Grand Traverse Harbor is being literally smothered by mining waste. Mining waste, called stamp sand was dumped along the eastern shore of Lake Superior’s Keweenaw Peninsula during the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. This stamp sand and the reef in which the fish lay eggs is another example substrate where the fish lay eggs. The stamp sands also contain high levels of copper, mercury, arsenic, and other contaminants toxic to aquatic life. As such, juvenile fish are not found in shoreline habitats that are covered in stamp sands along this reef.

The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission were pioneers in identifying this problem and have been more than just advocates in identifying solutions. My Tribe and the other Great Lakes Ojibwa Tribes depend on the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission to work with many others to solve this problem and fulfill the obligation of the international treaties and agreements with Canada.

After all, a healthy and well sustained Lake Trout fishery in Lake Superior, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs as well as state and tribal governments have committed to take actions to further this work.

There is an important role for Congress here as well. Congress can:

- Support the work of the intergovernmental Buffalo Reef Task Force as it develops appropriate, locally driven long-term solutions that will have both regional and far-reaching benefits for tribes and the commercial and recreational sectors.
- Support funding at no less than $300-million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) which is doing so much to enable the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes.
- Support the appropriate and legitimate role of tribes to be “at the table” as full partners in the development and implementation of solutions that will both restore the reef and protect it from further damage. The GLRI has an important role in funding the intergovernmental Buffalo Reef Task Force. This Task Force is now being established to explore long-term solutions to the problem and identify sources of funding. There is no one partner who can accomplish this work. A commitment and cooperation by all affected governments will be necessary.

In closing, I respectfully request Congressional support of the Intergovernmental Task Force created to develop locally driven solutions. Much of this effort comes from funding made available through Congressional appropriations for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative— including and especially funding for the appropriate and legitimate role of tribes as full partners. With this effort we can prevent the damage occurring at this spawning reef and actually make some semblance of progress in restoring the tremendous potential for the Great Lakes to become once again a source of pride in America.

Several staff members including Larry Denomie, CEO; Attorneys Dan Herron, Reuben Blaker, and Michael LaFerriere have put a tremendous amount of time and effort into developing this Company and obtaining the permit.

**Tribe’s Tobacco Company Obtains License**

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Tobacco Company (KBICTC) was issued a permit to manufacture tobacco products by the Federal Tax and Trade Bureau on November 27, 2017. The issuance of the permit is a huge accomplishment for the Tribe. The manufacture and sale of tobacco products is still several weeks away as much of the preparation to begin manufacturing could not be completed until the permit was received.

KBICTC had filed an application to manufacture tobacco products with the Federal Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) on March 29, 2017. The process involved the initial evaluation of the application for completeness, background checks of the board members, a company interview with the KBICTC Board, and a site visit with a field investigator including examination of equipment and premises.

KBICTC will be partnering with Allegany Capital Enterprises (ACE), a subsidiary of Seneca Manufacturing, who have been in the tobacco manufacturing business for over twenty years. With their knowledge, expertise, and experience, it is believed that this will be a profitable venture for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

Several staff members including Larry Denomie, CEO; Attorneys Danielle Webb and Kevin Carlisle; Michael Lahlri; Board members Jennifer Misegan, Warren “Chris” Swartz, Jr., Do- reen Blaker, and Travis Herron have put a tremendous amount of time and effort into developing this Company and obtaining the permit.

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The Vice President gave a verbal report which was transcribed by the Newsletter Editor with the Vice President’s approval.

- The Enrollment Office had a new software system installed last week. Be advised, with adjusting to the new system, there will be delays when one is in the enrollment process, registrations, and hunting/fishing licenses. I do apologize for this.
- The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Tobacco Company, LLC, (KBICTC) had their site visit on October 27, 2017. The entire Board, Michael F. LaFerriere, Sr., Warren “Chris” Swartz, Jr., Dennis Blankenship, Travis Herron, and I, as well as Larry Delormie; Attorney Kevin Carlisle; and Michael Lahti, who had been assisting the Board, were present for the site visit. We had a good conversation with the inspector, Paul DuChateaux, from the Federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Trade Bureau Detroit Office regarding requirements prior to touring the facility. Inspector DuChateaux indicated his primary duty with the TTB is inspecting microbrews and wineries, and this was the first tobacco facility he had seen. The inspection of the facility included a few pictures and more conversation where we actually asked more questions of him than he of us. Inspector DuChateau did inform us that we passed the inspection, and he would be passing the report to the TTB and the National Revenue Center. I plan on contacting the TTB early next week to acquire any new information I can get from them. Inspector DuChateau indicated to us that the TTB is not in the business to say no, and they would work with us until we are actually issued our license. We are anxious to get the license about this, and hope our tobacco endeavor will begin as soon as possible.
- We have been working on the General Welfare Support Program benefits claims. They will be available for distribution in Baraga at the Tribal Center on November 20, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Marquette’s distribution will be at the Harvey Community Center on Tuesday, November 21, 2017, from 12 noon – 5:00 p.m. Please make sure to bring verification of their addresses with them.
- I met with Congressman Jack Bergman at our Community’s Harvest Feast. We talked about the General Welfare Exclusion Act and how it affects some of our most vulnerable members as they have to include the distribution amount as income when they apply for benefit programs and social security. This past week, Attorney Rob Porter, who works for us in Washington D.C., had the opportunity to sit down with Congressman Bergman’s Chief of Staff, Michelle Jelinsky, who indicated the Congressman is receptive to actually introducing some legislation to help our members. We began this one year ago, and it has been a long process. I don’t know if it will be introduced this year, but hopefully by next year, we will have this resolved.
- I’ve continued to work on the casino projects. We have recently had some fairly good news in relation to this. CEO Larry Denny III will report on this in his report. President Swartz and I sat down this week and worked on a grant application with our grant writer, Jean Jokinen. We are applying for a grant through the Shakopee Nation for some additional funding for what we are doing on the Baraga Project. We hope to get that application out early next week.
- We have been working with Slyvain Collard of the Highland Copper Company. President Swartz spoke about the visit we had with them in his report. Since then, they contacted us regarding a Memorandum of Understanding they proposed to us. We’ve asked them for a draft of the MOU as it is their proposal, and we want to see what they are willing to do for us. They are working on the draft, and they have invited us for a site visit. They have reached out to our TERO Director as they need resources, suppliers, and contractors, and they want to hire tribal members and tribal businesses.
- I’ve been working with Superior National Bank (SNB) regarding ATM machines. They have an ATM located at the Pines Convenience Center, and they want to move it. SNB has an agreement of paying $600 monthly to KBIC; however, they haven’t been able to make that much from the machine location. We will have to do something with the ATMs that we currently have.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Misegan

Chore Services
The KBIC Housing Department runs a Chore Services Program which was developed to assist tribes with house cleaning in their homes. For more information or an application please contact Natalie Mieko at (906) 353-7117 ext.112.

Tribal Council Secretary’s Report for the Month of September 2017 to the Council/Community

ANIN! We honor the greatness in you. Remember: “Indian Country Counts” “Our People, Our Nations, Our Future”

We continue to recognize the richness of Native American contributions, accomplishments, and sacrifices to the political, cultural, and economic life of Michigan and the United States.

Remember to continue to pray for each other, our police officers, military, firefighters, and all emergency personnel. Also remember those who are ill, having economic struggles, have lost loved ones, and for our world. Another season is approaching withnumerous celebrations, remembering our Veterans, and we wish everyone a blessed Thanksgiving.

Mino-Bimaadizin “Live Well”

During September, the Tribal Council held nine Special or Finance Council meetings. Following are the September 7, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, and 28, 2017 (approved) minutes. This report will be published in the KBIC “Wikwemdon Taawii-Ojibwe” newsletter and the approved minutes may also be found on the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Website.

September 7, 2017 Special Council Meeting:
- Tabled the Upper Peninsula Health Care Solutions Business Associate Agreement for more information from the Health Administration.
- Approved the Tier IV Services Agreement with Henley Boat Manufacturing for the purchase of a marine research vessel for the Natural Resources Department for $200,399.00.
- Approved the “Jimaganish Wadokaged” (American Legion Post 444) liquor license renewal.
- Approved Resolution KB 045-2017 Modifications to the residential and recreational leases of Joseph C. LaBeau, Sr. (transfer/add son).
- Approved the U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc. Amendment to the Intertribal Agreement for the non-motorized trail in Baraga County.
- Tabled the “Attendance Procedure (Point System)” at the Ojibwa Casinos for more information.
- Approved to appoint Heather Chapman as a Justice to the Apostle Islands Medical Contract for next week).
- Approved the KBIC Housing Department policy waiver request in case #003-2017.

September 14, 2017 Special Council Meeting:
- Approved the Upper Peninsula Health Care Solutions Business Associate Agreement effective July 26, 2017, for the purpose of providing technical assistance services to improve quality reporting at the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Approved to amend the Health Board By-Laws Article III Board Membership: Section 1 Change to five board members shall constitute a quorum from seven to nine, add that one member will be an employee from the KBIC DDHS, and one will be a Tribal Council representative; Remove Section 7: Article V Meetings: Section 2 change to five board members shall constitute a quorum from four.
- Approved the C&C Tire Business License renewal with Jeremy Hebert.
- Approved the “Jimaganish Wadokaged” (American Legion Post 444) liquor license renewal.
- Approved the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center Direct Care Services Reimbursement Agreement to facilitate reimbursement provided by KBIC for certain health care services and improve access to direct care services.
- Approved the Memorandum of Cooperative Agreement with the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc. for the REACH 2017-18 Journey to Wellness Project.
- Approved the proposed removal of the Resply/Rehire/Recall from Layoff in the Drug Free Work Place Policy for the Government.
December 2017 Calendar

- Dec. 2: Saturday Council Meeting at Big Bucks Bingo, Baraga, 9 a.m.
- Dec. 16: General Election 10 a.m.—6 p.m.
- Dec. 25—27: Christmas Holiday, Gov’t offices closed.
- Jan. 1-2, 2018: New Years Holiday, Gov’t offices closed.

Sarah Woodruff has joined the behavioral health staff at the Donald A. LaPointe Health and Education Center as the new School Counselor. She will be working with youth at Baraga, L’Anse, L’Anse-Baraga Community Schools, and at the Niwin Akeaa Center. In addition, she will be coordinating classroom-based prevention activities. Sarah holds a Master of Science Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Arkansas - Fayetteville.

Sarah moved to Baraga with her husband (who works in the KBIC Natural Resources Department) and three children a little over a year ago. She enjoys spending time outdoors with her family and experiencing the U.P. seasons.

“I am Rachel McDonald, the new Forester for KBIC. I’m originally from Wisconsin, but went to school at Michigan Tech, and then stayed and worked in forestry in the western U.P. My family and I have lived in Colorado and Wisconsin since then, but we finally found our way back to the Keweenaw. We are very happy to be here! I live in Chassell with my husband, seven-year-old daughter, and five-year-old son. In my spare time I garden and explore by bike, snowshoe, ski, and canoe.

Hello. My name is Courtney Jones and I am thrilled to be hired as a new pharmacy tech for the KBIC Health System. I’ve recently moved back home after attending college in Wyoming and am grateful to be given the opportunity to serve our community.

In my free time I enjoy spending time with friends and family, offer vocal and instrumental lessons, and enjoy being part of leading the newly formed L’Anse High School Choir.

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Kids Thrive Between 3 and 5

The developmental milestones reached during the ages of 3, 4 and 5 are critical to your child’s later success in school. A child who is not meeting milestones, or is struggling to learn, may not be ready for kindergarten. The good news is, through the Michigan Department of Education, Build Up Michigan can help make sure your preschooler gets the needed support.

If you think your child needs additional help preparing for kindergarten, visit buildupmi.org.
REACH has a new walking program tracking our steps around the shores of Lake Superior. 350 miles to go all the way around.

The walking program will start December 6, 2017 and end on March 31, 2018. Pedometers will be given out if you need one. The Niiwin Akega gym will be open at 10:30am to 1:30pm Monday through Friday to allow those to walk indoors.

To participate in this program, track your daily steps along with your water intake.

There are four segments. After each segment if your daily goals are met, you can turn in your monthly log sheet to Popcorn or Mary Dee and receive an incentive. We will also be tracking where you are around lake Superior at the health center. This will be displayed where everyone can see the progress of those who join.

Great incentives

Register before December 4th.
Contact:
Popcorn 353-4531
or Mary Dee 353-4530

NATIVE AMERICAN MODELS WANTED:
The Indian Health Service Meth & Suicide Prevention Grant will be running a media campaign for the prevention of picking up dirty needles. The Community Policing Group will be distributing brochures and posters against picking up dirty needles.

The poster and brochure campaign is in need of Native Models (child and parent) to pose for the brochures and posters. Models will be compensated $50.00 for each photo chosen. If interested, bring a picture of the child, a picture of the parent, documentation of who are in the pictures, and contact information to: the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community’s Tribal Police Department or CEO Office prior to Tuesday, January 9, 2018, 4 p.m.

Don't get STUCK with a Disease
Beware of dirty needles

Parent Circle
2nd Monday!
December 11, 2017
5:00-6:30PM
KBIC Health System, 2nd floor

This month’s make-and-take activities will be making a photo frame and stocking decorating!

Supplies are limited. Please register with Dawn for reminder calls! 353-4521

Sponsored by KBIC Family Spirit and Healthy Start Programs

This program is for everyone age 18 and older, come and enjoy the fun. Encourage friends and family to join.

GRAB A BUDDY AND WALK DURING YOUR LUNCH BREAK, BE SURE TO BRING A SACK LUNCH AND LEAVE A FEW MINUTES TO EAT!

Making Bread with Santa

• A free, public, and consistent event promoting family engagement—children must be supervised
• Focus group is ages 0-5 and their siblings
• Santa is coming to visit!
• Snacks will be provided
• Book for each family

To place an ad, submit an article, or relate information, ideas, or possible articles contact: Lauri Denomie at (906) 201-0263, or e-mail: newsletter@kbic-msn.gov.

(7) Niizhwaaswi
Secretary Report continues:

- Approved to appoint Elizabeth D. Mayo to the Aanikoozing, Inc. Board as the Tribal Council member per the Articles of Incorporation.
- Approved a donation of $1 Pines Gift Cards at $10.00 each for the BaySides Village employees for the Staff Appreciation Day on September 15, 2017.
- Approved to support the request to apply for the Wounded Warrior’s Family Support Program application for a vehicle.
- Approved the Ainsworth Game Technology, Inc. rental agreement for the Baraga Casino.

September 18, 2017 FINANCE/Special Council Meeting:

- Reviewed ten Department Budgets.
- Approved amendment of the CNAP Policy Approved Medical Travel Allowances to include spouse in the additional medical travel assistance section.

September 19, 2017 FINANCE/Special Council Meeting:

- Reviewed nine Department Budgets.
- Approved the effective date of September 15, 2017, to add the spouse to the CNAP Additional Medical Travel Assistance section.
- Approved the bid from Frei Chevrolet for the purchase of two standard 15 passenger 2018 Chevy vans in the amount of $59,194.00 for the KBIC Youth Department.

September 20, 2017 FINANCE/Special Council Meeting:

- Reviewed eight Department Budgets.
- Tabled the Policy Amendments regarding Corrective Actions for the Government, Enterprises, Youth, and Policing.
- Approved the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc. Memorandum of Agreement for Tribal Opioid Use Disorder Prevention Initiative for $43,709.00.
- Approved Resolution KB 046-2017 transfer of the home on 16343 Beartown Road, Baraga, MI, and purchase agreement to the KBIC Housing Department.
- Approved Resolution KB 047-2017 Sarah L. Rantanen Recreational Lease in L’Anse Township.
- Approved the School Counselor’s Employment Agreement with Sarah M. Woodruff to provide counseling services within the Community’s Health System.

September 25, 2017 FINANCE/Special Council Meeting:

- Reviewed ten Department Budgets.
- Reviewed three Department Budgets and reviewed the financial summary for 2017-18.

September 28, 2017 Special Council Meeting:

- Approved the Grant Agreement with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for Public Health Emergency Preparedness for coordination and collaboration to protect the health and safety of all citizens $19,666.00.
- Approved Grant Agreement with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for the VOCA Targeted Victim Services to expand and enhance local services available to crime victims $117,390.00.
- Approved the Grant Agreement with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for the WIC Special Supplemental Program $68,297.00.
- Approve the Tier III Services Agreement with Windsor Solutions, Inc. to provide an Environment Management Database for the Natural Resources Department $47,252.00.
- Approved the T.E.A.M.S. Software and Operating Hardware Installation and License Agreement with Automated Election Services for the Ink Impression Contract Extension to September 9, 2018, $29,743.00.
- Approved Option 1 for the multi-year rate cap guarantee for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield renewal for 2018.
- Approved the Amendment to the Independent Contractor Agreement with Lauri Denomie for the Community Newsletter extending the date to October 22, 2017.
- Approved the Physician’s Employment Agreement with Dr. Rian D. Mintek October 16, 2017-January 16, 2018 (with automatic renewal in 30 day increments).

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan J. LaFerriere

CEO’s Report for the Month of October 2017

During the month of October 2017, the CEO’s office reported the following:

Harvest Feast/Community Meeting

- The annual Harvest Feast was held at the Ojibwa Seniors Center on October 7. This year, Tribal Council held their regular meeting and a community meeting also took place where updates on several subjects were provided.
- Jennifer Peltier, KBIC Tobacco Company Board Chair, provided an update on the tobacco manufacturing business which included details on the process to date and the upcoming milestones.
- Doreen Blaker, Tribal Council Treasurer, provided information related to the Fiscal Year 2018 budgeting process. Notable approvals included a 2% wage increase for all employees and $1,800 for this year’s General Welfare Support Payment, formerly known as the Christmas/Sovereignty check. The Tribe received great news with options related to the healthcare plan it provides its eligible employees which provided a guaranteed no increase in premiums for the current renewal and around a 5% decrease for the following year.

Casino Projects

- We continued to meet with Gundlach Champion throughout the month of October to get the budgets for the casino projects in line with the funding sources available. Following the project update presentation at the community meeting earlier this month, the work on making adjustments to the projects has resulted in balancing the budgets.
- The additional changes that were made to the Marquette project were significant in cost while keeping the marketability of the facility and related amenities intact. Exterior changes included design changes to the restaurant, siding changes for the hotel, and lighting on a patio. Interior changes included removing the pool and changing the space to a meeting room, minor changes to door types, removal of color changing lights around the perimeter of the casino and several other areas, a change in the grade of carpet in the event center, textured drywall was changed to a flat finish, and the convention space will not be split initially.
- The Baraga project was amended significantly throughout the balancing process but has not changed since the community presentation. The changes that are planned include upgrading of the water and electrical service, new flooring, ceilings and LED lighting in the casino, drain tile installation for the Pressbox, and a new HVAC system that will provide 100% air exchange essentially eliminating the extremely smoky environment.
- Now that the numbers are in balance, finalization of the financing will take place along with Council’s consideration for approval of the Guaranteed Maximum Price proposal with our General Contractor, Gundlach Champion.

Staffing

- There are number of staffing updates to share. Carole LaPointe, who served as the Tribe’s Health Department Administrator, retired, and her last day of work was October 25. We have updated her description and job posting which will be replaced. In the interim, Kathy Mayo, Assistant Health Administrator, has taken on the role and will do so until the position is filled.
- We have a new director level positions who are on leave. Our office is handling the duties for one of the areas, and we have hired a part-time temporary worker to handle the other.
- The Tribe’s Youth Department is undergoing staffing changes. The director and facility lead have resigned, and those positions are currently unfilled. With the significant reduction in staff programming for the youth will be affected until the positions are filled. We are reviewing options for the annual youth Christmas events and will communicate on those changes very soon.

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- The Tribe has brought on a new Forester, Rachael McDonald, who began working on October 16 and is settling into the new role nicely.
- The Tribe’s Planning and Development Development building located on US41 in Baraga. It has taken a long time to finally fill the School Counselor position that we were doing recruitment for. Sarah Woodruff has been hired and will provide counseling services at the Tribe’s health center as well as in the L’Anse and Baraga Schools.
- The Tribe’s grant proposal for the new Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site located in Baraga was awarded.
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Other

- During the FY18 budget review sessions, it was determined that the revenues of the Ojibwa Building Supply Do It Best Center located on US41 in Baraga, didn’t provide the ability to sustain operations. The business’ inventory will be liquidated, and the store will officially close at the end of the day on No-
2018 KBIC MERIT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The KBIC Education Department announces the availability of the 2018 KBIC Merit Scholarship application. The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community supports college education for its members. Many students receive outstanding grades during their college careers. The Tribal Council has approved four scholarships for college students pursuing degrees, during the Winter/Spring 18 semester based on merit. The scholarship amount is $2,500 for the 2018 Winter/Spring semester. Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Enrolled Tribal member.
- Legal resident of the State of Michigan.
- Attending an accredited college/university for the 2017-18 academic year.
- Enrolled as a full-time student.
- Must currently be a minimum of Sophomore status.
- Must be in pursuit of an Associate, Bachelor, Master, or doctoral degree documented by their college.
- Must provide a copy of most recent official transcript verifying a minimum GPA of 3.00.

Eligible students must complete an application, submit a copy of their most recent official transcript, and submit an essay detailing their interest in their chosen major and how it might one day benefit the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

For more information and to request an application, contact Amy St. Arnold, Education Director at 906-353-6623, ext. 4117 or at amy@kbic-nsn.gov. The application deadline is December 29, 2017, at 4 p.m.

Gratitude for a successful Wild Rice Camp, by Valoree S. Gagnon, 1/17/2017

It began as an idea sparked in the mind of Lac Vieux Desert tribal member Roger LaBine, “Do you think we could host a Wild Rice Camp here this fall?” Roger and I were sitting in the Ford Center dining hall in Albota, Michigan, with Scott Herron, Ferris State University Faculty member; Evelyn Ravindran, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community’s Hatchery/Nursery Manager; and Ken Vrana, Center Director. We’d just finished cleanup of a two-day Wild Rice Camp for the KBIC summer youth. “Of course we can,” Ken chimes in.

Knowing that manoomin (wild rice) will be ready for harvest in a few short weeks, Roger points around our circle and says, “If we all work together, I think we can make this happen.”

Wild Rice Camp came together at the Ford Center and Forest in Al- bota, Michigan, Sept. 22-24, through the tremendous efforts of volunteers, donors, and a partnership team that was established in just two days: the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community’s Natural Resources Department; Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College; Michigan Tech’s School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science and the Ford Center and Forest; Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission; and our teachers, Roger and Scott.

More than 20 individuals—including staff, technicians, and college interns—got to work on the registration process; securing funds and in-kind donations; planning the menu; plus inventoring and collecting hundreds of tools, tarps, equipment, and two dozen canoes, paddles, and life jackets from Upper and Lower Michigan and Wisconsin. Some went to Minnesota to bring back more than 1,000 pounds of manoomin that was seeded in our local waters during the camp.

Other volunteers collected forest materials. Michigan Tech Forester Jim Schmierer gathered and transported several 15-foot hardwoods to Al- bota. Allan and Canon Gagnon, alongside College interns, located and sawed more than 30 “forks.” Pam Nankervis, of the US Forest Service, helped to find the much needed gizhk (cedar); Harry Mirron and Clifford Nankervis each harvested and donated a truckload. These gifts led to the construction of more than 100 knocking sticks,撑着 paddles, and push poles by camp participants.

Seventy-five people of all ages participated in Wild Rice Camp this year, including members of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, and members from Red Cliff, Stilp Ste Marie, Lac Vieux Desert, Sokaagin, and Little Traverse Bay; students and faculty from Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College (KBCC), Northern Michigan University, and Michigan Tech; natural resource specialists and experts from KBIC Natural Resource Department and Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission; and folks from Baraga, Houghton, and Marquette Counties, Wisconsin, and as far away as Massachusetts.

Wild Rice Camp 2018 is already on the calendar for the Memorial Day weekend next year—everyone is invited to participate at the Ford Center and Forest! We hope many more of you will join us in creating wild rice camp memories for our community.

In my final words, I acknowledge manoomin—for being in the heart of my friend Roger, for inspiring our partnership and the hard work of many, for teaching us the importance of gathering and harvesting together, and for reminding us to forge new friendships and to strengthen existing ones, with each other and our other-than-human relatives. For all these gifts, Chi migwech manoomin.
Cheryl Ann Suojanen, age 60, of Zeba, MI, passed away on Thursday, November 9, 2017, at her home. She was born August 13, 1957, in L’Anse, MI, the daughter of Wayne and Helen (Miller) Koski. Cheryl grew up in Zeba and graduated from L’Anse High School in 1975. She then went to Bemidji, Minnesota, for general studies. She worked construction with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) for 25 years, then with Celotex for 15 years, retiring in 1993.

Cheryl was a member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the Ojibwa Seniors. She was a supervisor at the KBIC Summer Youth Camp, and was a member of the Baraga County Bowling League. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

Surviving are her children: Sarah (Douglas) Garver of Ishpeming, Yancey (Sarah) DeCota of Zeba; siblings: Richard (Milina) Holappa of Baraga, Carol Koski of Zeba, and Butch (Gail) Koski of Zeba; 11 grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her parents; a special friend Mark Bruder; and brother Wayne “Tinker” Koski.

A Traditional Funeral Ceremony was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at the Zeba Community Hall with interment at the Pinery Cemetery. The family greeted friends and family from the services. The family followed the services. The Jacobson Funeral Home assisted the family.

Cheryl Ann Suojanen
(August 13, 1957—November 9, 2017)

Chi Miigwech!
National Flu Vaccination Week Message from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness and at times can lead to death. People of every age, including those in good health, are at risk. Influenza can cause illness and sometimes severe disease in people of any age. Flu causes millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations, and thousands or tens of thousands of deaths each year in the United States. Although a majority of hospitalizations and deaths occur in people 65 years and older, even healthy young children and younger adults can have severe disease or even die from influenza. Over 100 pediatric deaths from influenza were reported to the CDC last season.

An annual flu vaccine is the best way to protect against this potentially serious disease. Flu vaccination can reduce flu illness, doctor visits, missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations. Flu vaccination may also make your illness milder if you do get sick. Getting vaccinated protects people around you, including those who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness, like babies, young children, older adults, and people with certain chronic health conditions.

Despite the unpredictable nature of the flu, you need the 2017-18 flu vaccine for optimal protection against the flu this season. Flu viruses are constantly changing and this season’s vaccines have been updated to protect against the viruses that surveillance data indicate will be most common this flu season. A person’s immune protection from vaccine declines over time, so annual flu vaccinations are needed for the best protection against it. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body that protect against influenza virus infection. While seasonal flu outbreaks can happen as early as October, flu activity is usually highest between December and February, though activity can be as late as May. As long as flu viruses are circulating, it’s not too late to get vaccinated. With flu activity increasing, and family and friends gathering for the holidays, now is a great time to get a flu vaccine if you haven’t already this season. A flu vaccine can protect you and your loved ones from the flu.

Call the KBIC Health System, (906) 353-8700 to find out more information about how and where you can get the 2017-18 seasonal flu vaccine.

Easy Apple Sweet Potato Bake

1. Place sweet potatoes in large saucepan and cover with water. Bring to a boil.
2. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer 30 minutes or until tender. Drain.
3. When cool enough to handle, peel potatoes and cut into 1/2 in. slices.
4. Preheat oven to 375°. In small bowl, combine walnuts, brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt; set aside.
5. In large skillet, sauté apples in 2 tbsp. butter 3-4 minutes or until tender.
6. In greased 1 1/2 qt. baking dish, layer half the sweet potatoes, apples, and brown sugar mixture. Repeat layers. 7. Dot with remaining 1 tbsp. butter. Cover and bake 30 minutes. Uncover, bake 15 min. longer or until bubbly.

Yields 6 servings Prep time 45 min. Bake time 45 min.

290 calories, 11g fat (4g saturated), 140 mg sodium, 48g carbs, 2g protein

Adapted from Taste of Home® recipe by Dr. Dale Schneisser, RD
The KBIC Tribal Veterans Wiikwedong Ogichidaa Society Honor Guard had a busy day this Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2017. They first visited the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Tribal Center grounds and participated in a 9:00 a.m. Veteran’s Ceremony. Displaying the colors with much pride, they were accompanied by the Woodland Singers. The Ojibwa Casino sponsored the event and held a lunch afterward to say thank you to all Veterans.

Much appreciative for the thank you lunch, but with no time left the KBIC Tribal Veterans Wiikwedong Ogichidaa Society Honor Guard were immediately off, traveling to the NMU Dome in Marquette, Michigan, for a 12:00 noon presentation of the colors. They very proudly danced the flags and the KBIC Eagle Staff on to the field for the November 11, 2017, football game. Photos are compliments of Macha Loonsfoot and Jammie Loonsfoot. ~ Submitted by Lauri Denomie