

# MITSC MEETING

Nicholas Sapiel Building, Penobscot Indian Nation

January 24, 2019

Commissioners in Attendance: Bert Polchies, Ed Bassett, John Banks, Matt Dana, Roy Partridge, Jamie Bissonette-Lewey, Brian Reynolds via telephone

Tribal leaders: Chief Kirk Francis (Penobscot Nation), Chief Marla Dana (Sipayik), Vice Chief Maggie Dana (Sipayik), Chief Clarissa Sabattus (Houlton Band of Maliseets) via telephone

Others in Attendance: Rena Newell (Passamaquoddy Tribal Representative) Maulina Dana (Penobscot Tribal Ambassador), Jim Matlock, Diane Oltarzewski, John Mattis, Paul Thibeault (MITSC Managing Director), April Nicholas (MITSC Administrative Assistant), Lewis Evans (Passamaquoddy Game Warden from Sipayik)

## Approval of Agenda

Jamie Bissonette-Lewey proposed modifying the agenda. They were under new business:

1. Thanking the outgoing Commissioners and former Executive Director.
2. On behalf of Commissioner Polchies—A discussion of Commissioner mileage reimbursement.
3. Personnel Policies.
4. Health Care Reimbursement Account.

**Matt Dana made a motion to approve the agenda with modifications. Bert Polchies seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.**

## Managing Director Report

Paul Thibeault provided a summary of activity since the start of his employment by MITSC including the opening of the new MITSC office at 13 Commissary Point Road in Trescott, Maine. A written summary of the report will accompany the Minutes.

## Financial Report

A financial report was provided by Paul Thibeault. He stated that the bulk of expenses since the last MITSC meeting have been for the creation of the new office, including rent, equipment and supplies. New checking and savings accounts have been established at Machias Savings Bank and the Key Bank accounts have been closed. A payroll service has been established. In the past MITSC has used Excel spread sheets. We are in the process of setting up QuickBooks. Administrative Assistant April Nicholas will be trained for QuickBooks.

There was some discussion of whether Commissioners have ever been bonded, and whether they should be.

**Bert Polchies moved that the Managing Director look into the question of bonding the Commissioners and report back. Seconded by Roy Partridge, the motion was unanimously approved.**

There was discussion about the sources of MITSC funding, including whether MITSC gets any federal funding.

**Bert Polchies moved, and Matt Dana seconded that the Managing Director send bills to the Tribes for their MITSC assessments. The motion was unanimously approved.**

After discussion, the Managing Director was advised to contact appropriate federal office(s) about the possibility of federal funding to support MITSC activity.

## Old Business

1. MITSC statutory role regarding waters- Discussion of whether to propose an amendment of the MIA and possible mapping project to clearly identify waters regarding which MITSC currently has a statutory role. Jamie Bissonette Lewey agreed to open a conversation with Glenn Page at Sustainamatrix about this project and invite Commissioners and Tribal Leaders to opt into the conversation. A full report will be offered at the next meeting.

## New Business

1. Meaningful Recovery of Healthy Food/Sustenance Fisheries: Ed Bassett made a presentation concerning the historic and on-going degradation of the waters upon which tribal members depend for the exercise of sustenance fishing rights. There was considerable discussion.

**John Banks made a motion, seconded by Roy Partridge, to have the Managing Director assess the impact of MITSC rulemaking and studies or lack thereof on the health of fish stock and water quality. The motion was unanimously approved.**

2. Appointment of State Commissioners: Paul Thibeault summarized the current situation regarding appointment of State members by Governor Mills. Questions and discussion followed. Paul Thibeault will circulate the online link for the application process that is coordinated by the Director of Boards and Commissions.  
<https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/about/boards>
3. Passamaquoddy Representative Rena Newell presented a summary of proposed legislation. After discussion, a Legislative Subcommittee was formed, consisting of Matt Dana, Brian Reynolds, Roy Partridge, Bert Polchies and Dick Gould.
4. Executive Order on Consultation. Chief Francis and Representative Newell discussed the importance of legislating a requirement to consult because the Executive Orders have been ignored or rescinded. Representative Newell has introduced a bill to require consultation.
5. Commissioner Polchies raised the significance of Article 10 Section 5 of the Maine Constitution as part of the conversation on consultation. The Chair asked Paul Thibeault to research and present a summary of the significance of Article 10, Section 5 of the Maine Constitution to include in the MITSC legislative packets going forward.
6. Thanking outgoing Commissioners and Executive Director: **Bert Polchies moved, seconded by John Banks, that MITSC obtain baskets for Linda Raymond, Dick Gould, Roy Partridge and John Dieffenbacher-Krall. The motion was unanimously approved.**
7. Mileage Reimbursement for Commissioners: It was noted that the IRS rate for mileage in 2019 is 58 cents while the MITSC rate for Commissioners is only 44 cents. **Bert Polchies made a motion to increase the MITSC rate to 51 cents. Seconded by John Banks. The motion was unanimously approved.**
8. Reaffirmation of staff hiring: **Bert Polchies moved, and Matt Dana seconded to reaffirm the hiring of Managing Director Paul Thibeault and Administrative Assistant April Nicholas. The motion was unanimously approved.**
9. **Adjournment: Bert Polchies moved to adjourn. Matt Dana seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.**

