

White Earth Reservation Business Committee

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News Release

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Minnesota Chippewa Tribe TEC votes to censure White Earth Secretary-Treasurer; exonerates Chairman

WHITE EARTH, MINN. – The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) held a special meeting today to exonerate or censure White Earth Reservation Chairman Terrence “Terry” Tibbetts and Secretary-Treasurer Tara Mason at the Shooting Star Casino Event Center in Mahnomon, Minn.

At a regularly scheduled TEC meeting on Jan. 24 at Grand Portage Reservation, motions were made for censure by both Mason and Tibbetts. Mason motioned to censure Tibbetts for violation of Article X, Section 2. (a) Malfeasance in handling of tribal affairs, Article X, Section 2. (b) Dereliction or neglect of duty, and Article X, Section 2. (e) Refusing to comply with any provisions of the Constitution or Bylaws of the Tribe. The second was made by Carolyn Beaulieu, Mille Lacs Reservation Secretary-Treasurer.

Tibbetts motioned to censure Mason for violating Article X, Section 2 (e) Refusing to comply with any provisions of the Constitution or Bylaws of the Tribe. The second was made by Faron Jackson, Leech Lake Reservation Chairman.

White Earth and five other reservations are under the umbrella of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and the Tribal Executive Committee is made up of the chairperson and secretary-treasurer of each of those Ojibwe bands. Tibbetts and Mason sit on the TEC together.

By a vote of 8 for and 1 against, with one silent – the TEC voted to exonerate Tibbetts and the censure process for him is officially over.

The TEC voted 5 for and 4 against, with one silent to censure Mason. She will continue performing her duties as she has before.

An official MCT notice will be sent to the White Earth Reservation Business Committee for a removal or recall election hearing to be held within 30 days upon receiving the notice.