

SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

195 Village Road
Cutler ON, P0P 1B0



Telephone: (705) 844-2418
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SRFN Chief and Council Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Approved Minutes

6:00pm

Chair: James Owl

Council: Erin Carne, Nicole Pelletier, Rebecca Csaszar, Angela Trudeau (zoom), Justin Urquhart, George Coughlin, Angela Trudeau

Regrets: None at this time

Director of Operations (DOO): None at this time

Staff: Madelaine O'Neill, POLEA

Recording Secretary: Madelaine O'Neill, POLEA

1) Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Remarks:

- The duly convened Chief and Council meeting of Thursday, April 9, 2026 was called to order at 6:01pm
- Opening prayer/smudge by Justin Urquhart
- The Chief welcomed everyone and thanked community members for attending. He reflected on recent community activities, noting that the children had a great time at the Easter Egg Hunt
- The Chief and several Council members also recently attended the NATOA conference, where they had the opportunity to participate in a meet and greet with members in the Ottawa area
- He shared that the strategic planning process officially kicked off this week, with initial meetings underway across departments

2) Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: 2026-04-09-01

That Chief and Council adopt the Agenda for the Council Meeting of Thursday, April 9, 2026 as presented

Moved by	Erin Carne
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus

3) Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

- Councillor Coughlin declared conflict on item(s) 10 d) i, ii, and iii – Community Advancement Fund Application Review

4) Community Presentations:

- None at this time

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5) **Approval of Previous Minutes**

a) **Thursday, March 26, 2026**

MOTION: 2026-04-09-02	
That Chief and Council approve the previous Council Meeting Minutes of Thursday, March 26, 2026 as presented	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus

6) **Business Arising From Previous Minutes:**

a) **2026-27 Budget**

MOTION: 2026-04-09-03	
That Chief and Council approve the 2026-2027 Budget as presented	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	George Coughlin
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Chief and Council reviewed the proposed 2026-2027 budget, which had been deferred from the duly convened Council meeting of March 26, 2026 to allow for a more detailed review - Following discussion, the budget was approved as presented	

7) **Reports:**

a) **Chief's Report**

MOTION: 2026-04-09-04	
That Chief and Council approve the Chief's Report dated April 9, 2026 as presented	
Moved by	Erin Carne
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus
- The Chief provided an update on recent organizational activities and explained that efforts during the reporting period focused on finalizing the 2026–2027 budget and addressing outstanding reporting items impacting cash flow - The 2024–2025 audit was presented, approved, and submitted, bringing audit requirements up to date - Updates were also shared on staffing, including the successful hiring of a Finance Manager and continued recruitment for vacant positions - Ongoing work includes departmental planning aligned with the approved budget, regular leadership meetings, and continued progress on key projects such as the Serpent River First Nation strategic plan, capital planning, and infrastructure initiatives - The Chief highlighted advancements in the Acid Site remediation project, housing and funding applications, and various partnerships and funding opportunities	

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8) Doodem & Committee Minutes & Reports:

a) Mukwa Doodem Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2026

MOTION: 2026-04-09-05	
That Chief and Council approve the Mukwa Doodem Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2026 as presented	
Moved by	Erin Carne
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus

b) Marten Doodem Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2026

MOTION: 2026-04-09-06	
That Chief and Council approve the Marten Doodem Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2026 as presented	
Moved by	George Coughlin
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus

9) Standing Items:

a) Audit Update

- The 2024/25 audit has been completed and passed (March 26, 2026) - Serpent River First Nation will now prepare for the 2025/26 audit, which has a deadline of July 31st, 2026 - The current auditors (BDO) will be retained for upcoming audit cycle, with a Request for Proposal (RFP) to be issued following that for future audit services
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b) Community Safety

- Councillor Carne provided an update on community safety initiatives, including a presentation of additional graphics and data collected from speed signs along Highway 17 (in community) - Average speed data collected from Highway 17 indicates that vehicles are consistently travelling above the posted speed limits. While there are occasional fluctuations and spikes, overall trends show sustained higher speeds throughout the monitoring period - This data reinforces ongoing concerns regarding speeding and supports the need for continued efforts toward establishing a Community Safety Zone designation - It was noted that a minimum of two months of data collection is required before Serpent River First Nation can be considered for designation

c) Quarterly Meetings

- Chief and Council discussed the upcoming Quarterly Meeting taking place on Saturday, April 11, 2026 from 10am to 5pm - The meeting will include cultural components, lunch, departmental updates and discussions on leadership priorities - It was noted that the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which was previously intended to be integrated into the Quarterly Meeting was completed at the duly convened Chief and Council meeting of March 26, 2026 though moving forward the goal is to have open discussion/community consultation regarding the timing and structure of these meetings - Will remain a standing agenda item, with ongoing focus on planning and confirming upcoming dates

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d) Governance Manual

- None at this time

e) RHTLF/RHT (as arises)

- Chief provided an update on the Robinson Huron Treaty (RHT) 1% Fund
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) process to select an Administrator has been completed, with Peace Hills Trust identified as the successful proponent
- Work is now underway to develop application forms and administrative processes for compensation payments with the application process anticipated to open in July 2026

f) CHRT 41 Projects

- Serpent River First Nation with the assistance of NFCS has revived three (3) community projects that had been submitted for CHRT 41 funding in 2023-2024
- In August of 2025, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) closed the file for the following projects due to lack of activity and response:
 1. Community Round House
 2. Social Services Administration Building
 3. Mount Lake Family Cultural Centre
- In late November of 2025, the projects were reinitiated
- No further questions have been received from CHRT 41 staff
- On Tuesday, April 7, 2026, a progress notice was emailed by CHRT 41 staff assigning project number PO71995 for the 3 projects
- Drafting Requests for Proposals (RFP) for full architectural and engineering design of each of the project is underway, and will be distributed to Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury area design firms with no commitment to proceed by Serpent River First Nation, should the projects not receive funding through CHRT 41

10) New Business:

a) Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership (SRFN LP) - Asset Transfer

MOTION: 2026-04-09-07

That Chief and Council accept and authorize the Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership to proceed with the recommendation as outlined by BDO

Moved by	Justin Urquhart
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus
- A review of the Balance Sheet has identified that the Loader (net value of \$44,000.00) and the Gravel Inventory (\$57,078.29) are currently retained within SRFN LP financial records - Given that Serpent River First Nation (SRFN) is the present custodian of both assets, it is formally recommended that these items be transferred from the SRFN LP balance sheet to the financial records of SRFN - The SRFN LP consulted with BDO regarding the optimal method for transferring the assets to SRFN without the actual exchange of cash - BDO has provided the following recommended steps to ensure accurate reporting: The SRFN Limited Partnership (SRFN LP) shall:	

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Generate an invoice to SRFN, crediting the Loader at \$33,000 (Actual cost of \$165,000 less accumulated amortization as at March 31, 2026 of \$132,000) and the Gravel at \$57,078.29 (Value of asset as of March 31, 2026), and simultaneously debiting the Due To/From SRFN account. This transaction will result in an effective invoice value of \$0.00

- Serpent River First Nation shall subsequently:

Record the invoice in its payable module, debiting its assets and crediting its Due To/From SRFN LP account

- The SRFN LP has reviewed the recommendation of the asset transfer as outlined by BDO and a resolution was passed in support of the transfer (SRFN LP Board Resolution #2026-02-08)

b) Huron North Community Economic Alliance (HNCEA) - Board Appointment

MOTION: 2026-04-09-08

That Chief and Council appoint Misty Brosseau, SRFN LP General Manager, as the delegate to the Huron North Community Economic Alliance for Serpent River First Nation, effective immediately with reports from each meeting submitted to Chief and Council

Moved by	Erin Carne
Seconded by	Rebecca Cszasz
CARRIED	By Consensus

- Serpent River First Nation was a founding member of HNCEA, helping to shape the organization's original vision for collaborative, regional economic development. Over the past decade, HNCEA has built its success on strong, trust-based relationships

- Serpent River First Nation currently has no representative on the HNCEA Board of Directors and a formal delegation is required for a designated individual from Serpent River First Nation to attend upcoming HNCEA meetings

- Chief and Council appointed Misty Brosseau, SRFN LP General Manager to the board, effective immediately

c) First Nations Drinking Water Settlement – Payment to Serpent River First Nation

- Chief and Council were advised that Serpent River First Nation has received funds from the First Nations Drinking Water Class Action Settlement, related to the long-term boil water advisory on-reserve

- Chief and Council discussed potential community-forward uses for these funds

- It was expressed that these funds belong to the community and that engagement and consultation will be incorporated into ongoing strategic planning work to guide their use

- It was also noted that, while such funds were previously utilized at the administrative level, this will not occur moving forward (for Band purposes)

d) Community Advancement Fund (CAF) – Application Request(s)

Discussion - CAF

- Chief and Council held general discussion regarding the Community Advancement Fund (CAF) and the overall direction moving forward. It was agreed that a dedicated Council meeting will be scheduled for further discussion on Friday, April 17, 2026 with the time to be determined

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i) Housing Related Request - CAF

- Chief and Council reviewed a request for funding support in the amount of \$5,000 through the Community Advancement Fund (CAF) for residential flooring improvements
- The request included one quote for material costs, with labour to be included at no cost
- Following discussion, Chief and Council directed that staff work with the Housing & Infrastructure Department to explore alternative supports and options to assist the member

ii) Property Improvement Request - CAF

MOTION: 2026-04-09-09

That Chief and Council defer the Community Advancement Fund (CAF) request in the amount of \$5,000 for property improvements

Moved by	Erin Carne
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Chief and Council reviewed a request for funding support in the amount of \$5,000 through the Community Advancement Fund (CAF) to assist with the construction of a garage structure on a residential property - The proposed project includes the use of storage containers with a rooftop structure, with the applicant contributing a portion of the overall costs - Following discussion, Chief and Council noted considerations regarding eligibility under the CAF pillars and potential precedent-setting implications - The request was deferred for further review and discussion	

iii) Professional Development Support Request - CAF

MOTION: 2026-04-09-10

That Chief and Council approve funding in the amount of \$5,000 through the Community Advancement Fund (CAF) to support professional development training

Moved by	Angela Trudeau
Seconded by	Erin Carne
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Chief and Council reviewed a request for funding support in the amount of \$5,000 through the Community Advancement Fund (CAF) for professional development training in Dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT) and addictions counselling - The applicant is in good standing with CAF - The applicant is currently enrolled in a program and has contributed a portion of the overall costs - Chief and Council approved the request in the amount of \$5,000	

11) Community Questions and Answers:

- Community member inquired about where to submit applications for the \$12,000 Per Capita Distribution (PCD). The Chief clarified that all required information should be submitted to trustinfo@serpentrivern.com
- Community member asked whether the Off-Reserve Task Team could apply for funding through the Community Advancement Fund (CAF) to support the development of their task team. The Chief explained that

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it is unclear whether this request falls within the CAF funding pillars, however an application can be provided for consideration

12) **Next Meeting Date(s):**

- Thursday, April 23, 2026

13) **Adjournment:**

MOTION: 2026-04-09-11

That Chief and Council adjourn the Chief and Council Meeting of Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 8:20pm.

Moved by	Rebecca Cszaszar
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Seconded by	George Coughlin
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CARRIED	By Consensus
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