

SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

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SRFN Chief and Council Meeting

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Approved Minutes

Chair: James Owl

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

Regrets: Angela Trudeau

Director of Operations (DOO): None at this time

Staff: None at this time

Recording Secretary: Madelaine O'Neill, POLEA

1) Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Remarks:

- The duly convened Chief and Council meeting of Thursday, June 11, 2026 was called to order at 5:59pm
- Opening prayer by Councillor Urquhart
- Chief provided a brief update on current community activities and seasonal preparations, including: summer student interviews have been completed, dock installations are underway, efforts continue to address roadway maintenance needs, and planning for the annual Powwow is also progressing

2) Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: 2026-06-11-01	
That Chief and Council adopt the Agenda for the Council Meeting of Thursday, June 11, 2026 as presented	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Erin Carne
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Add item 4 a) Lake Huron Tributaries	

3) Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

- None declared

4) Community Presentations:

a) Lake Huron Tributaries

- Ken Meawasige returned to provide a follow-up presentation regarding the Tributaries First (TF) Initiative, an Indigenous-led watershed stewardship, governance, education, and environmental monitoring initiative focused on the protection of tributaries and watershed systems connected to the Great Lakes Basin and Lake Huron region
- Ken returned with a brief one-page summary outlining the initiative's key objectives and requests for consideration

Recording Secretary:	Madelaine O'Neill	Date Approved	2026-06-25
2026-06-11 APPROVED CHIEF AND COUNCIL MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2026-06-25-02

- Chief and Council were provided with a draft Band Council Resolution (BCR) in support of the initiative
- Ken noted that the proposed BCR carries no legal, financial or operational obligations for Serpent River First Nation and serves solely as an endorsement of the initiatives objectives
- Chief and Council will review the request and it was further directed that the draft BCR be brought forward for consideration at a future duly convened meeting

5) Approval of Previous Minutes

a) Thursday, May 28, 2026

MOTION: 2026-06-11-02

That Chief and Council approve the previous Council Meeting Minutes of Thursday, May 28, 2026 as presented

Moved by	Justin Urquhart
Seconded by	Erin Carne
CARRIED	By Consensus

6) Business Arising From Previous Minutes:

a) Revised Human Relations Manual

MOTION: 2026-06-11-03

That Chief and Council approve the 2026 Human Relations Manual and direct Senior Management to implement the employee training and awareness process

Moved by	Nicole Pelletier
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus

- Following the election of the current Chief and Council, a gap in personnel policies was identified, resulting in a review and update of the 2019 Human Relations Manual to ensure compliance with current federal employment standards and organizational needs
- The Serpent River First Nation Senior Management team reviewed the existing manual (2019) and advised that it provided a strong foundation, and worked with the original author (John Singleton) to complete the necessary updates and additions; to support effective management of Serpent River First Nation's workforce and to reflect both legal requirements and Serpent River First Nation's unique organizational culture
- Following approval of the 2026 Human Relations Manual, implementation will include an employee training and awareness process to ensure that staff understand the policies and expectations; with overview anticipated to be presented at an upcoming All Staff Meeting on June 17, 2026

7) Reports:

a) Chief's Report

MOTION: 2026-06-11-04

That Chief and Council approve the Chief's Report for the reporting period of May 22 to June 5, 2026 as presented

Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	George Coughlin

Recording Secretary:	Madelaine O'Neill	Date Approved	2026-06-25
2026-06-11 APPROVED CHIEF AND COUNCIL MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2026-06-25-02

CARRIED	By Consensus
- Chief provided his bi-weekly report covering the period of May 22 to June 5, 2026. Chief advised that onboarding preparations are underway for the incoming Director of Operations, with a start date of June 15, 2026 - Updates were provided regarding ongoing financial and audit activities, including the RHT Annuity Audit, the 2025/26 Annual Audit, and continued work with MNP to support financial operations and process improvements - Chief reported that departmental annual work plans have been completed and efforts are now focused on implementing operational priorities, refining timelines, and measuring performance outcomes. An update was also provided on Phase 1 of core employee training, including Health and Safety Awareness, Workplace Violence and Harassment Prevention, WHMIS, and AODA training - Further updates were provided on several organizational initiatives, including the Elders Long-Term Care project, summer student employment planning, distribution of minors annuity payment certificates, preparations for the June 27–28, 2026 Membership Vote, and planning for the upcoming Community Quarterly Meeting - Chief advised that work continues on the Serpent River First Nation 2026–2031 Strategic Plan, the Capital Planning Study, and development of a funding database to improve agreement tracking, cash flow management, and reporting capabilities - Additional updates were provided regarding workforce development opportunities associated with the Cutler Acid Site Remediation Project, capacity development initiatives through the Waasmoowin Project, and ongoing collaboration with external partners on infrastructure, environmental, and economic development opportunities - Chief highlighted several internal and external meetings attended during the reporting period in support of organizational priorities and noted upcoming engagements related to trust development, harvesting issues, and funding opportunities	

b) Councillor Report – Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership (SRFN LP) Annual General Meeting

MOTION: 2026-06-11-05	
That Chief and Council approve the Councillor’s Report dated June 11, 2026 as presented	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Erin Carne
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Councillor Urquhart reported on attendance at the Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership (SRFN LP) Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on May 30, 2026, which was attended by 44 participants, including staff and board members - Community members received updates on the performance and financial health of SRFN LP assets, including the Gas Bar, Trading Post, Agawa Trading Post, and Business Centre - Financial information was presented by the BDO auditor, who reported that all assets contributed to a profitable year for the SRFN LP - During the meeting, Board Chair Earl Commanda presented a ceremonial cheque in the amount of \$150,000 to Serpent River First Nation, which was accepted on behalf of the Nation	

Recording Secretary:	Madelaine O’Neill	Date Approved	2026-06-25
2026-06-11 APPROVED CHIEF AND COUNCIL MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2026-06-25-02

- Appreciation was expressed to SRFN LP staff and the Board for hosting the event, providing updates, and engaging with community members regarding future growth and economic development opportunities
- Members were encouraged to attend future SRFN LP Annual General Meetings to stay informed on asset performance and to share feedback and ideas with the Board

c) Board Summary Report – Nogdawindamin

MOTION: 2026-06-11-06

That Chief and Council approve the Nogdawindamin Board Summary Report of March 12 and May 6, 2026 Board Meetings as presented

Moved by	Justin Urquhart
Seconded by	Nicole Pelletier
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Council received an external board report from Nogdawindamin that included key discussions and decisions from recent Board meetings (March 12 and May 6, 2026) - Updates included the ratification of the Ontario Final Agreement (OFA), changes to funding streams and service delivery, and ongoing planning related to child and family well-being initiatives - The Board approved the revised fiscal year 2026–27 budget and surplus plans, including investments in community programming, prevention services, mental health supports, and staffing resources - Updates were also provided on strategic planning, risk management, and agency operations - Additional business included approval of revised Terms of Reference for the Elder Advisory Circle, renewal of the agency’s strategic planning process, benefits review, and discussions regarding representation from member First Nations on the Board - The report expressed the importance of continued collaboration among member communities and ongoing efforts to strengthen service delivery, governance, and long-term planning	

8) Doodem & Committee Minutes & Reports:

a) May 20, 2026 – Mukwa Doodem Meeting Minutes

MOTION: 2026-06-11-07

That Chief and Council approve the Mukwa Doodem Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2026 as presented

Moved by	Erin Carne
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus

b) March 10, 2026 – Marten Doodem Meeting Minutes

MOTION: 2026-06-11-08

That Chief and Council approve the Marten Doodem Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2026 as presented

Moved by	Nicole Pelletier
Seconded by	George Coughlin
CARRIED	By Consensus

Recording Secretary:	Madelaine O’Neill	Date Approved	2026-06-25
2026-06-11 APPROVED CHIEF AND COUNCIL MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2026-06-25-02

c) May 25, 2026 – Loon Doodem Meeting Minutes

MOTION: 2026-06-11-09	
That Chief and Council approve the Loon Doodem Meeting Minutes of May 25, 2026 as presented	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus

d) Membership Applications

1. Aiden Curtis Gary Wheatley

MOTION: 2026-06-11-10	
That Chief and Council approve the Community Voting Process for Aiden Curtis Gary Wheatley as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Erin Carne
CARRIED	By Consensus

2. Tammy Mary Irene Lantain

MOTION: 2026-06-11-11	
That Chief and Council approve the Community Voting Process for Tammy Mary Irene Lantain as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	George Coughlin
CARRIED	By Consensus

9) Standing Items:

a) Audit Update

- Chief provided an update on the 2025/26 audit process; the anticipated completion timeline has been adjusted, with a new target of finalizing the audit before the end of Summer 2026 - Serpent River First Nation Finance Department staff continue to complete bank reconciliations and gather supporting documentation requested by the auditors - Work also remains ongoing regarding the Robinson Huron Treaty (RHT) Past Annuities Settlement audit, though this component is nearing completion and is expected to be finalized shortly
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b) Quarterly Meetings

- Chief provided an update on preparations for the June 27, 2026 Quarterly Meeting; planning is underway, including coordination of catering, and development of the agenda and presentations - Feedback received from the previous Quarterly Meeting is being incorporated into the planning process moving forward to improve the overall experience and will continue, in hopes of enhancing future meetings - Recent Wi-Fi upgrades are also expected to improve connectivity and accessibility during the event(s)

c) RHTLF/RHT (as arises)

Recording Secretary:	Madelaine O'Neill	Date Approved	2026-06-25
2026-06-11 APPROVED CHIEF AND COUNCIL MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2026-06-25-02

- Chief provided an update on upcoming Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund (RHTLF) related activities, and noted that he will be attending an upcoming meeting hosted in Batchewana First Nation, which will focus on team building and strengthening relationships among participants. A follow-up report will be provided to Council at a future meeting

d) CHRT 41 Projects

- Update provided on the three (3) CHRT 41 capital projects submitted in December 2025, to support the future transition of FNFCs services to Serpent River First Nation

- As of June 5, 2026, all three (3) applications have been advanced to the design stage have been assigned project numbers, as follows:

- Social Services Administration Building, PN-P073293
- Community Round House, PN-P073245
- Mount Lake , PN-P73315

- Procurement has closed for the Social Services Administration Building , with four (4) proposals received, as follows:

- Bridgman Collective, \$570,718
- A-49, \$355,350
- 3rd Line Studio, \$182,000
- Smoke Architecture, \$287,187

- A proposal review and recommendation is required for the Social Services Administration Building, to trigger the flow of design dollars by June 18, 2026

- The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Community Round House and Mount Lake projects closes on June 25, 2026

- Engagement with community for design(s) is anticipated during July 2026 with a target to have designs complete by mid-December 2026

10) New Business:

a) Amendment to Terms of Reference – Trust Development Working Group (TDWG)

MOTION: 2026-06-11-12

That Chief and Council approve the amendments to the Serpent River First Nation Trust Development Working Group (TDWG) Terms of Reference, originally approved on April 23, 2026;

Chief and Council adopt the amendments as recommended by the Trust Development Working Group (TDWG) on May 28, 2026

Moved by	Nicole Pelletier
Seconded by	George Coughlin
CARRIED	By Consensus

- Council reviewed a briefing note from the Trust Development Working Group (TDWG) requesting approval to amend the Serpent River First Nation RHT Trust Development Working Group Terms of Reference

- The proposed amendments included the addition of Appendix “A” to establish liaison positions (Elder and Youth), confirmation of the TDWG’s authority to appoint liaison positions as needed, and minor wording updates, including replacing references to the “Comprehensive Plan” with “Trust Operations Manual.”

- The liaison positions would serve in a non-voting advisory capacity to support community engagement and communication between the TDWG and community groups; the TDWG had already issued postings for the Liaison roles and anticipates making appointments in June 2026, subject to approval of the amendments

Recording Secretary:	Madelaine O’Neill	Date Approved	2026-06-25
2026-06-11 APPROVED CHIEF AND COUNCIL MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2026-06-25-02

- Attachments included the revised Terms of Reference document and a comparison redline highlighting changes from the version approved on April 23, 2026

b) 2026 Summer Student Employment

MOTION: 2026-06-11-13

That Chief and Council approve Option 3 and invest \$186,974 from available funding sources and provide nine (9) weeks of employment for up to 28 student applicants to be placed with various department within operations; one (1) week of employment will focus on essential training elements for new employees provided through NATT Safety

Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus

- Council reviewed a briefing note regarding the 2026 Summer Student Employment Program and efforts to maximize employment opportunities for Serpent River First Nation Youth
- Funding has been secured from a variety of sources, including federal and provincial employment programs, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) funding streams, Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program (ISETP) funding, and a contribution from the Chief and Council honorarium budget, resulting in total available funding of approximately \$186,974
- 26 student applications were received prior to the deadline, and the available funding would support up to 28 student positions
- The program includes a one-week training component delivered through NATT Safety, providing certifications such as Working at Heights, WHMIS, Work Safe, and First Aid
- Student placements were identified across several departments and programs, including Housing, Infrastructure, Culture, Health, Geka, Daycare, Summer Camp, Early Years Summer Camp, and administrative support
- Options were presented for consideration, including limiting hiring to externally funded positions or supplementing funding to support additional students. It was recommended to proceed with the available funding sources to provide up to 28 summer employment opportunities, including nine (9) weeks of employment and mandatory safety training
- Council approved Option 3 on the briefing note, which proceeds the identified funding sources available, and invests \$186,974 for up to 28 student positions for Summer 2026

c) Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) Update

- Chief and Council received an update regarding the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) initiative established between 1994 and 2003, under the leadership of Chief Earl Commanda
- The program was created to assist Serpent River First Nation youth with future post-secondary education costs through individual RESP accounts; the registration period for the program closed in 2003
- The Serpent River First Nation Education Department maintains records identifying participants, including policy and agreement numbers and can assist members in accessing information related to their accounts
- Members seeking information on their individual policies can be supported through the Education Department, which can provide available records and direct individuals to Embark Financial Services for current account information and investment status updates
- Historical records remain available to support members making inquiries regarding the RESP program

Recording Secretary:	Madelaine O'Neill	Date Approved	2026-06-25
2026-06-11 APPROVED CHIEF AND COUNCIL MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2026-06-25-02

d) Hydro One Connection – 65190790 Camp Lake Road

MOTION: 2026-06-11-14	
That Chief and Council of Serpent River First Nation, representing the Serpent River First Nation (the “First Nation”), at a duly convened meeting of Council held on June 11, 2026, having reviewed the sketch provided by Hydro One Networks Inc. attached hereto as Schedule “A” (“Sketch”) in respect of the new or modified connection of CAMP LAKE RD. to the electricity distribution system approve the location on the Serpent River First Nation Reserve of the poles, anchors, conductors and equipment identified in the Sketch	
Moved by	George Coughlin
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Request received from Hydro One Networks Inc. (HONI) regarding a proposed electrical service connection at 65190790 Camp Lake Road - Chief and Council approval is required for the location of poles, anchors, conductors and associated equipment situated on reserve lands - Following review of the submitted sketch and supporting documentation, Chief and Council approved the proposed infrastructure locations for Hydro One connection, as presented	

e) Ministry of Natural Resources Funding Agreement

MOTION: 2026-06-11-13	
That Chief and Council accept and authorize the 2026/27 Ontario Forest Management Planning Transfer Payment Funding Program Agreement, as amended following previous Council review and direction	
Moved by	Nicole Pelletier
Seconded by	Erin Carne
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Council reviewed the revised 2026/27 Ontario Forest Management Planning Transfer Payment Funding Program Agreement - This item had been brought forward previously, and the agreement was amended following Council feedback and discussions with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) - Council approved the amendments and authorized the execution of the agreement	

f) Solid Waste Management Update

MOTION: 2026-06-11-14	
That Chief and Council agree to enter into a three-year (3) with GFL to provide curbside pick-up for approved recyclables, with the full costs being reimbursed to Serpent River First Nation through the First Nations Waste Management Initiative	
Moved by	Justin Urquhart
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Council received a briefing note regarding the proposed signing of a curbside recycling agreement with GFL as part of ongoing efforts to improve solid waste management services	

Recording Secretary:	Madelaine O’Neill	Date Approved	2026-06-25
2026-06-11 APPROVED CHIEF AND COUNCIL MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2026-06-25-02

- A proposal and contract from GFL was received for curbside recycling collection services over a three-year term
- A need was identified for immediate improvements to waste management practices while longer-term infrastructure projects are being developed
- Plans are underway to develop a new Waste Transfer Station, with design and tendering anticipated to take approximately 10–12 months and a target construction completion date of September 2027
- Serpent River First Nation has been working with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and North Shore Tribal Council (NSTC) to maximize funding opportunities through the First Nations Waste Management Initiative (FNWMI), including support for waste management infrastructure, operations, monitoring, and waste reduction initiatives
- Chief and Council approved the execution of the three-year curbside recycling agreement with GFL. The agreement is valued at approximately \$46,180 in the first year and includes a 5% annual escalation, with all identified costs eligible for up to 100% funding (reimbursement) through the First Nations Waste Management Initiative (FNWMI)

11) Community Questions and Answers:

- Q:** Community member raised concerns regarding conditions at the Elder’s Recreation Building (Caboose) including the absence of air conditioning, potential electrical and fire safety hazards and the lack of an outdoor space for residents to enjoy
A: Chief advised that an immediate health and safety review could be undertaken to assess staff and resident safety concerns, also that potential future funding opportunities could be explored to address longer-term improvements, such as the development of an outdoor amenity area for residents
- Q:** Community member inquired regarding the status of Community Advancement Fund (CAF) applications
A: It was noted that a significant number of applications have been received and that some applications remain in review status; and due to the volume of submissions, applications received are being assessed to ensure they align with the established CAF criteria, funding pillars and the original policy framework
- Q:** Community member inquired whether the Youth Achievement Fund remains available
A: It was confirmed that the program is still active, and that applications and inquiries should be submitted to cafapplication@serpentriverfn.com for review/processing

12) Next Meeting Date(s):

- Thursday, June 25, 2026

13) Adjournment:

MOTION: 2026-06-11-15

That Chief and Council adjourn the Chief and Council Meeting of Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 8:25pm.

Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
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Seconded by	Erin Carne
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CARRIED	By Consensus
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