

SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

195 Village Road
Cutler ON, P0P 1B0



Telephone: (705) 844-2418
Facsimile: (705) 844-2757

SRFN Chief and Council Meeting

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Approved Minutes

Chair: James Owl

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

Regrets: Tasha Becker

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, July 9, 2026 was called to order at 6:00 PM
- Opening prayer and smudge by Councillor Urquhart
- The Chief welcomed those in attendance and commented on recent weather, noting reports of severe storms in Northern areas. He acknowledged the work of the summer students, especially in their efforts assisting Elders with property clean-up and lawn maintenance
- Chief provided an update on the Acid Site Remediation project, and that work continues to progress despite unforeseen findings requiring additional specialized asbestos remediation and resulting project adjustments
- The Chief advised that the Director of Operations was away due to a prior commitment and would return for the next meeting
- An update was provided on the Trust Development Working Group (TDWG) series of engagement sessions, with Chief noting strong participation at recent sessions, including approximately 30 attendees in Sault Ste. Marie (July 7, 2026) and a well-attended session in Serpent River First Nation (July 8, 2026). Members were encouraged to attend upcoming Trust Development engagement sessions to ensure their voices are heard throughout the engagement process

2) Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: 2026-07-09-01

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

Moved by	Angela Trudeau
Seconded by	George Coughlin
CARRIED	By Consensus

3) Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

- None declared

Recording Secretary:	Madelaine O'Neill	Date Approved	2026-07-23
2026-07-09 APPROVED CHIEF AND COUNCIL MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2026-07-23-03

4) **Community Presentations:**

- None at this time

5) **Approval of Previous Minutes**

a) **Thursday, June 25, 2026**

MOTION: 2026-07-09-02

That Chief and Council table the previous Council Meeting Minutes of Thursday, June 25, 2026, pending the proposed amendments

Moved by Angela Trudeau

Seconded by Nicole Pelletier

CARRIED 1 Abstention (Councillor Trudeau)

- Discussion ensued regarding the draft Council Meeting Minutes of Thursday, June 25, 2026. The minutes were tabled pending the submission of the following proposed amendments:

- Correction to the name of the Councillor who declared a conflict of interest (Csaszar not Trudeau)
- Revisions to the summary of discussion regarding the Certificate of Possession (CP) Requests (item 10 c)

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

- None at this time

7) **Reports:**

a) **Chief's Report**

MOTION: 2026-07-09-03

That Chief and Council approve the Chief's Report for the reporting period of June 26-July 3, 2026 as presented

Moved by Rebecca Csaszar

Seconded by Justin Urquhart

CARRIED By Consensus

- The Chief presented Report No. 2026-13 for the reporting period of June 26-July 3, 2026
- The Chief reported on continued organizational restructuring, including the transition of responsibilities to the Director of Operations, staff updates, and summer student onboarding
- Updates were provided on several key initiatives, including progress on the RHT annuity and annual audits, Water Treatment Plant upgrades, Acid Site Remediation, the Waste Transfer Station, Long-Term Care planning, the 2026–2031 Strategic Plan, and the completion of the first 2026 Membership Vote and Community Quarterly Meeting
- The report also highlighted participation in internal and external meetings related to governance, infrastructure, funding opportunities, natural resource management, and renewable energy, as well as upcoming priorities and events including the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund (RHTLF) Council Fire and Building Canada Strong Fund project planning

Recording Secretary:	Madelaine O'Neill	Date Approved	2026-07-23
2026-07-09 APPROVED CHIEF AND COUNCIL MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2026-07-23-03

b) Director of Operations Report**MOTION: 2026-07-09-04****That Chief and Council approve the Director of Operation's Report for the reporting period of June 29-July 10, 2026 as presented****Moved by** Rebecca Csaszar**Seconded by** George Coughlin**CARRIED** By Consensus

- As the Director of Operations was not present for this meeting, Council reviewed the written report
- The report provided updates on organizational restructuring, implementation of staff training and onboarding initiatives, rollout of the Procurify purchasing system, development of standard operating procedures, and ongoing operational and administrative improvements
- Council acknowledged the report as presented

8) Doodem & Committee Minutes & Reports:**a) June 15, 2026 – Migizii (Eagle) Doodem Meeting Summary****MOTION: 2026-07-09-05****That Chief and Council approve the Migizii Doodem Meeting Summary of June 15, 2026 as presented****Moved by** Justin Urquhart**Seconded by** George Coughlin**CARRIED** By Consensus

- Council received and approved the Migizii (Eagle) Doodem Meeting Summary of June 15, 2026
- Councillor Csaszar (portfolio holder) provided a brief verbal update on Migizii (Eagle) Doodem activities

9) Standing Items:**a) Audit Update**

- Chief advised that comments had been submitted on the draft RHT Annuity Audit and had been shared with the Finance Committee. The comments are being reviewed by the auditors, with a focus on presenting the information in a way that is accessible and easy for community members to follow; including breaking out certain financial categories
- Chief reported that the 2025/26 audit remains in progress, and is expected to be slightly behind schedule due to ongoing bank reconciliation work; MNP continues to provide internal support with the audit process

b) Quarterly Meetings

- Chief confirmed that the next Community Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2026
- Council feedback will be sought regarding whether Saturday Community Quarterly Meetings continue to meet the needs of members and support attendance
- Chief noted that community and Council feedback will continue to be used to help inform future Community Quarterly Meeting agendas and format; and further, that planning for the next one will begin shortly, including the development of a draft agenda for Council review

c) RHTLE/RHT (as arises)

Recording Secretary:	Madelaine O'Neill	Date Approved	2026-07-23
2026-07-09 APPROVED CHIEF AND COUNCIL MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2026-07-23-03

- Chief provided an update on recent Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund (RHTLF) matters; specifically regarding legal proceedings relating to the Fund's motion to intervene in the Atikameksheng boundary claim, and circulated supporting legal and governance documents for Council's review and information

d) CHRT 41 Projects

- Chief provided an update on the three (3) CHRT 41 Capital Projects and advised that a meeting was held with CHRT 41 staff to ensure a shared understanding of the next steps and project timelines:

- Social Services Administration Building (PN – P073293)
- Community Round House (PN – P073245)
- Mount Lake Family Cultural Centre (PN – P73315)

- CHRT 41 staff are reviewing the conceptual design packages for each of the projects, with design work anticipated to proceed upon confirmation of funding

e) Certificates of Possession (CP)

- Chief provided a follow-up on previously discussed Certificate of Possession (CP) applications

- Council was advised that correspondence from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) indicated that the five (5) applications did not identify the applicable provision of the *Indian Act* under which the land transfer were being requested and that additional information prepared in the Canada Lands Survey Records (CLSR) format, was required

- Chief further advised that additional outstanding CP requests continue to be complied and that a map of active CPs was provided for Council's review

10) New Business:

a) Serpent River First Nation Draft 2026-2031 Strategic Plan

- The Draft 2026-2031 Strategic Plan was presented to Council for their review and information

- Chief noted that the draft reflects feedback received through the engagement process with community/staff and represents a modernized approach to the Strategic Plan

- It was acknowledged that dedicated engagement with Elders and Youth remains outstanding, and the consultants (Cambium Indigenous Professional Services, CIPS) are aware of these gaps

- Council reviewed the draft, and was invited to provide comments prior to the plan being brought forward for formal approval and subsequent release to the community

b) Lamprey Control – Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)

- Council discussed correspondence received from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) regarding the proposed Sea Lamprey Control Treatment within Serpent River First Nation territory

- Concerns were raised regarding the potential effects on the ecosystem, wildlife, water quality and species, such as sturgeon, as well as the introduction of chemicals into the environment

- Chief advised that an immediate response would not be provided, noting that the matter would be reviewed through Serpent River First Nation's consultation process before a position is communicated

- Council discussed communicating its concerns and reaffirming the Nation's commitment to protecting its lands and waters

- It was further requested that the correspondence be circulated to Council for review

c) In-Camera Meeting – Legal Matter

Recording Secretary:	Madelaine O'Neill	Date Approved	2026-07-23
2026-07-09 APPROVED CHIEF AND COUNCIL MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2026-07-23-03

MOTION: 2026-07-09-06

That Chief and Council of Serpent River First Nation will open an In-Camera Meeting immediately following the adjournment of the July 9, 2026 Duly Convened Meeting of Chief and Council, for the purpose of discussing a legal opinion regarding a Per Capita Distribution eligibility determination

Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
-----------------	-----------------

Seconded by	Erin Carne
--------------------	------------

CARRIED	By Consensus
----------------	--------------

- The Chief and Council of the Serpent River First Nation were elected under the guidelines of the First Nations Election act on November 21, 2025
- The Chief and Council of the Serpent River First Nation have individually sworn an oath to the community and collectively have committed to following the Serpent River First Nation Governance Manual
- The Chief and Council of the Serpent River First Nation is committed to conducting all business in an open, transparent and accountable manner
- From time to time, the Chief and Council will be faced with situations where legal or human resources matters must be discussed in a closed session to maintain lawyer/client privilege, or to protect privacy
- Chief and Council are currently processing through a legal opinion regarding a Per Capita Distribution (PCD) eligibility determination

11) Community Questions and Answers:

- Community member inquired about the the Acid Site Remediation project, and whether it could affect preparations for the upcoming Powwow. Chief advised that work within the active remediation area is expected to be complete prior to the event and that measures are being taken to minimize impacts while maintaining safe access and camping areas
- Community member inquired regarding the availability of the Draft 2026-2031 Strategic Plan. Chief noted that the draft will be finalized following the remaining engagement and Council review, before being brought forward for formal approval and subsequent release to the community
- Community member inquired about the Community Safety and Emergency Management Committee and whether it was still active. Councillor Carne advised that the Committee remains active and has held one meeting to date
- Additional questions were received on various community matters and responses were provided by Chief and Council

12) Next Meeting Date(s):

- Thursday, July 23, 2026

13) Adjournment:**MOTION: 2026-07-09-07**

That Chief and Council adjourn the Chief and Council Meeting of Thursday, July 9, 2026 at 7:34 PM

Moved by	Angela Trudeau
-----------------	----------------

Seconded by	George Coughlin
--------------------	-----------------

Recording Secretary:	Madelaine O'Neill	Date Approved	2026-07-23
2026-07-09 APPROVED CHIEF AND COUNCIL MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2026-07-23-03

CARRIED	By Consensus
----------------	--------------

Recording Secretary:	Madelaine O'Neill	Date Approved	2026-07-23
2026-07-09 APPROVED CHIEF AND COUNCIL MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2026-07-23-03