SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

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SRFN Chief and Council Meeting

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Approved Minutes

Chair: James Owl
Council: Erin Carne, Nicole Pelletier, Rebecca Csaszar, Angela Trudeau, Justin Urquhart, George Coughlin, Angela Trudeau
Regrets: None at this time
Director of Operations (DOO): Natasha Becker (zoom)
Staff: Leila Macumber, Director of Health & Wellness
Recording Secretary: Madelaine O'Neill, POLEA

1) Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Remarks:

- The Chief and Council meeting of Thursday, July 23, 2026 was called to order at 6:00 PM
- Opening prayer/smudge by Councillor Urquhart
- Chief acknowledged the recent passing of a community Elder and extended condolences
- Chief made note of the upcoming CPC Memorial Ball Tournament and annual Pow Wow preparations, with Acid Site Remediation work temporarily paused to accommodate activities
- Chief also acknowledged the ongoing wildfires affecting western Ontario and encouraged consideration of how the community may support existing relief initiatives
- Chief advised that another round of Trust Development Working Group (TDWG) engagement sessions is forthcoming
- Chief highlighted the community app giveaway, noting increased engagement with approximately 800 users participating as a result of the contest

2) Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: 2026-07-23-01 **That Chief and Council adopt the Agenda for the Council Meeting of Thursday, July 23, 2026 as presented**	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Erin Carne
CARRIED	By Consensus

3) Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

- None declared

4) Community Presentations:

- None at this time

5) Approval of Previous Minutes

a) Thursday, June 25, 2026 – Regular Chief and Council Minutes

MOTION: 2026-07-23-02 **That Chief and Council defer the previous Council Meeting Minutes of Thursday, June 25, 2026 pending proposed amendments**	
Moved by	Nicole Pelletier
Seconded by	Erin Carne
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Council reviewed the June 25, 2026 minutes and identified amendments regarding the Certificate of Possession (CP) discussion, including reference to the Marten Doodem (Lands Committee) review and the historical recollection regarding 200 x 300 lot size in relation to CPs - Approval of the minutes was deferred pending incorporation of the proposed amendments	

b) Thursday, July 9, 2026 – Regular Chief and Council Minutes

MOTION: 2026-07-23-03 **That Chief and Council approve the previous Council Meeting Minutes of Thursday, July 9, 2026 as amended**	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	George Coughlin
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Edit 5 a) Add name of Council member who abstained	

c) July 9, 2026 – In-Camera Meeting Minutes

MOTION: 2026-07-23-04 **That Chief and Council approve the previous In-Camera Meeting Minutes of Thursday, July 9, 2026 as amended**	
Moved by	Angela Trudeau
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Edit 6 a) Add name of Council member who abstained	

6) Business Arising From Previous Minutes:

- None at this time

7) Reports:

a) Chief's Report

MOTION: 2026-07-23-05

That Chief and Council approve the Chief's Report for the reporting period of July 4-July 17, 2026 as presented	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Angela Trudeau
CARRIED	By Consensus

- Chief presented Report No. 2026-17 for the period of July 4 – July 17, 2026
- Chief provided updates on ongoing operational priorities, infrastructure and capital projects, audit activities, strategic planning initiatives and external partnerships
- Chief provided an update regarding the Sault Ste. Marie and Elliot Lake properties, including the current status of the projects and next steps under consideration
- Council reviewed the draft correspondence regarding the North Shore Forest glyphosate spray announcement and supported it proceeding as presented

b) Director of Operations Report

MOTION: 2026-07-23-06 **That Chief and Council approve the Director of Operations Report for the reporting period of July 4-July 17, 2026 as presented**	
Moved by	Justin Urquhart
Seconded by	George Coughlin
CARRIED	By Consensus

- Director of Operations presented her report for the period of July 4 - July 17, 2026
- Updates were provided regarding organizational operations, including finance, staff supervision, Human Resources initiatives, operational systems, ongoing process improvements and internal meetings attended
- Council received an update regarding Bank of Montreal (BMO) investment opportunities for surplus funds while maintaining operational liquidity

8) <u>Doodem & Committee Minutes & Reports:</u>

- None at this time

9) <u>Standing Items:</u>

a) Audit Update

- Chief reported that the bank account(s) reconciliation has been completed, marking a significant milestone in the FY 2025/26 audit process. It was noted that the auditors have received all required information, and the audit is anticipated to be complete in September 2026
- Chief advised that comments on the RHT Annuity Audit had been returned to the auditors, and a response is anticipated in the coming week

b) Quarterly Meetings

- Chief advised that planning is underway for the September 19, 2026 Community Quarterly Meeting
- Preparations will include development of the meeting agenda and the catering tender process

c) RHT/RHTLF (as arises)

- Chief provided an update on recent Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund (RHTLF) matters; specifically regarding legal proceedings related 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 following CHRT 41 projects:
  - Social Services Administration Building (PN – P073293)
  - Community Round House (PN – P073245)
  - Mount Lake Family Cultural Centre (PN – P73315)
- The design award letter has been submitted and acknowledgement from CHRT 41 staff is pending
- All three (3) projects remain under review, with design work to commence upon confirmation of design funding

10) <u>New Business:</u>

a) Short Term Investment Options for RHT Settlement Funds

MOTION: 2026-07-23-07
That Chief and Council direct Administration to work with the SRFN Finance Department and BMO to lock in 200M in a 3-month GIC, ensuring that the interest rate exceeds the current treasury account rate

Moved by	Angela Trudeau
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus

- Council reviewed a briefing note regarding short-term investment options for the RHT Settlement Funds
- The available settlement funds are currently being held in a Bank of Montreal (BMO) account and short-term investment options were presented to preserve the principal while generating investment returns for the Nation
- Following discussion, Council amended the proposed motion to direct Administration to work with the SRFN Finance Department and BMO to invest $200 million in a 3-month GIC, provided the interest rate exceeds the current treasury account rate

b) RHT Directors' & Officers' Insurance Renewal

MOTION: 2026-07-23-08
That Chief and Council approve payment of the RHT Directors' and Officers' Insurance Renewal Invoice in the amount of $81,475.48

Moved by	Nicole Pelletier
Seconded by	Angela Trudeau
CARRIED	By Consensus

- Council reviewed a briefing note regarding the renewal of the Serpent River First Nation RHT Directors' and Officers' liability insurance policy, which provides coverage for the Trust Development Working Group (TDWG) and Chief and Council; and protection for those responsible for the governance, oversight and stewardship of the RHT settlement funds while carrying out their respective duties and responsibilities

- The renewal invoice totaled $81,475.48 and exceeded the Director of Operations' approval threshold, and therefore, required Council approval for payment - Council approved payment of the invoice to maintain the required Directors' and Officers' liability insurance coverage

c) Expenditure Approval – Acid Site Remediation Progress Invoice

MOTION: 2026-07-23-09 **That Chief and Council approve the payment of Progress Invoice #1 from Milestone Environmental Inc. in the amount of $1,312,262.82 for Phase 2 of the Cutler Acid Site Remediation Project**	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Council reviewed a briefing note regarding progress invoice #1 received from Milestone Environmental Inc. for work completed under Phase 2 of the Cutler Acid Site Remediation Project - Progress invoice #1 covers project mobilization and remediation activities completed during the period of June 15 - June 25, 2026 - A detailed cost table identifying unit prices and quantities of work was attached for Council's review - Due to the value of the progress invoice, Council approval was required prior to payment	

d) Appointment of Youth & Elder Liaisons – Trust Development Working Group (TDWG)

MOTION: 2026-07-23-10 **That Chief and Council approve the appointment of Zane Johnston as Youth Liaison and Gloria Pelletier as Elder Liaison, as recommended by the Trust Development Working Group (TDWG)**	
Moved by	Angela Trudeau
Seconded by	Erin Carne
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Council reviewed a briefing note regarding the Trust Development Working Group (TDWG) recommendations for appointment of the Youth Liaison and Elder Liaison positions, established to support community engagement and ensure that Youth and Elder perspectives are represented during the development of the "Proposed Trust" - The positions were publicly advertised, candidates participated in a structured interview process and recommendations were brought forward by consensus of the TDWG	

e) High-Level Economic Development Discussion (SRFN LP Board Seat Changes)

MOTION: 2026-07-23-11 **That Chief and Council move to vacate the Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership (SRFN LP) Board Seat assigned to Serpent River First Nation Chief and Council. Serpent River First Nation Chief and Council retains authority over all Serpent River First Nation Corporations and will continue to monitor operations on**

behalf of the members of Serpent River First Nation and will engage legal services to develop an enhanced structure to position for economic growth	
Moved by	Justin Urquhart
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus

- Council reviewed a briefing note regarding proposed Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership (SRFN LP) Board seat changes and broader Economic Development strategy for the Nation
- The briefing note acknowledged that the SRFN LP has operated independently for two (2) fiscal years without funding support from Serpent River First Nation, and has demonstrated operational sustainability and profit
- Council directed that the SRFN LP Board Seat assigned to Chief and Council be vacated to allow greater focus on strategic Economic Development initiatives aligned with the Community Strategic Plan, while retaining oversight of Serpent River First Nation Corporations

11) Community Questions and Answers:

- A community member inquired about the recent cancellation of programs and services and noted limited recreational opportunities for families with children, including the cancellation of the beach party. The Director of Health and Wellness advised that the cancellation was due to staffing challenges

- A community member raised concerns regarding the status of renovations to a housing unit, specifically regarding delays in project completion following a change in contractors. Chief directed that the Director of Operations follow-up with the community member within the week

12) Next Meeting Date(s):

- Thursday, August 13, 2026

13) Adjournment:

MOTION: 2026-07-23-12 **That Chief and Council adjourn the Chief and Council Meeting of Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 7:29pm**	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Erin Carne
CARRIED	By Consensus