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, June 25, 2026

Approved Minutes

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

1) Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Remarks:

- The duly convened Chief and Council meeting of Thursday, June 25, 2026 was called to order at 6:00 PM
- Opening prayer/smudge by Councillor Urquhart
- Chief welcomed attendees and shared updates on recent activities, including recent graduations for Serpent River First Nation students, the opening of the Cutler Jays ball season, the upcoming start of 26 summer students, progress on the Acid Site remediation project, and welcomed the new Director of Operations, Natasha Becker to the organization

2) Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: 2026-06-25-01 **That Chief and Council adopt the Agenda for the Council Meeting of Thursday, June 25, 2026 as presented**	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus

3) Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

- Councillor Pelletier and Councillor Csaszar declared conflict on item 10 c) (iii) Certificate of Possession Request – Lionel (Linda) Groulx

4) Community Presentations:

- None at this time

5) Approval of Previous Minutes

a) Thursday, June 11, 2026

MOTION: 2026-06-25-02 That Chief and Council approve the previous Council Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, June 4, 2025 as presented	
Moved by	Justin Urquhart
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	1 Abstention

6) Business Arising From Previous Minutes:

a) SRFN Membership Code

- Chief provided an update on the Membership Code review, advising that research with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) confirmed the 1987 Membership Code as the original code, with a 1994 revision maintained on file
- Further review identified three pathways to membership (By Right, By Application, and By Adoption) and that past practice may have relied primarily on the Adoption pathway
- Chief advised that the Membership/Governance (Loon Doodem) Committee will continue reviewing the Membership Code during an upcoming two-day workshop
- Additional historical versions the Membership Code were located in organizational records, and it was recommend that the confirmed copy of the 1994 Membership Code be preserved as the official reference document

7) Reports:

a) Chief's Report

MOTION: 2026-06-25-03 That Chief and Council approve the Chief's Report for the reporting period of June 5-19, 2026 as presented	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	George Coughlin
CARRIED	By Consensus

- Chief presented Report No. 2026-12 for the reporting period of June 5–19, 2026
- The report provided updates on key organizational priorities, including the successful onboarding of the Director of Operations, ongoing audit activities, operational and strategic planning, and departmental work planning
- Progress was noted on the 2025/26 Annual Audit, RHT Annuity Audit, strategic planning, Water Treatment Plant upgrades, the re-establishment of the Elders Long-Term Care Project, and the Capital Planning Study
- Updates were also provided on preparations for the 2026 Membership Vote, Quarterly Community Meeting, financial reporting, and the Acid Site remediation project
- Chief discussed participation in internal meetings, community events, and external engagement activities related to environmental management, infrastructure, renewable energy, and funding opportunities

b) Annual Chief's Assembly - Chiefs of Ontario

- Chief shared the agenda and meeting materials from the Chiefs of Ontario Annual Chiefs Assembly, which took place on June 16-18, 2026; the materials were provided for Council's information and reference following the meeting

c) Grand Council Meeting Update – Anishinabek Nation

- Chief shared the agenda and meeting materials from the 2026 Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly which took place on June 2-4, 2026; the materials were provided for Council's information and reference following the meeting

d) Councillor's Report on Activities

MOTION: 2026-06-25-04 **That Chief and Council approve the Councillor's Report on Activities for the reporting period of November 2025-June 2026 as presented**	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Councillor Trudeau presented a report summarizing activities from November 2025 to June 2026 - The report highlighted participation in Chief and Council meetings, strategic planning initiatives, portfolio and committee meetings, and regional and intergovernmental engagement - Updates were provided on work related to the Lands, Economic Development, and Finance portfolios, including land-use planning, economic development initiatives, financial governance, Robinson Huron Treaty Trust matters, and the Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership - The report also noted participation in regional partnerships, community events, and board meetings, including Mamaweswen/Maamweysing and the Sault College Indigenous Education Council - Councillor Trudeau also acknowledged her completion of a Master of Business Administration, noting that the knowledge gained will support governance, strategic planning, financial oversight, and economic development on behalf of Serpent River First Nation	

e) Councillor's Report – Trust Development Engagement Sessions

MOTION: 2026-06-25-05 **That Chief and Council approve the Councillor's Report as presented**	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Angela Trudeau
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Councillor Coughlin presented a report regarding attendance at the Trust Engagement Series held on June 12 (Ottawa) and June 13 (Toronto) - The report noted that the presentations focused on the purpose and benefits of the proposed trust, trust governance, shared responsibilities, and measures intended to ensure the trust operates independently of Chief and Council	

- Questions were raised regarding potential future PCD distributions and interest relating to minors, with attendees advised that Chief and Council are aware of the matter
- The report also observed that attendance at both engagement sessions was low and suggested that Council consider additional engagement or communication strategies to increase participation and awareness moving forward

8) Doodem & Committee Minutes & Reports:

- None at this time

9) Standing Items:

a) Audit Update

- Chief advised that the *draft* Robinson Huron Treaty (RHT) Past Annuities Settlement audit has been completed and circulated for Council and Finance Committee review
- Once finalized, the audit will be made available to the community to provide a comprehensive record of funds received, disbursed, and Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund (RHTLF) transfers to date

b) Quarterly Meetings

- Chief advised that the upcoming Quarterly Community Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at the Lifestyle Centre from 10 AM to 5 PM
- Council reviewed the draft agenda, which will include departmental updates, presentations, lunch for attendees and a polling station for the Spring 2026 Membership Vote

c) RHTLF/RHT

- Chief provided an update on recent Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund (RHTLF) activities, including legal proceedings relating to the Fund's motion to intervene in the Atikameksheng boundary claim

d) CHRT 41

- Update provided on the CHRT 41 capital projects. All three (3) project applications have advanced to the design stage and have been assigned project numbers, as follows:
  - Social Services Administration Building (PN – P073293)
  - Community Round House (PN – P073245)
  - Mount Lake Family Cultural Centre (PN – P73315)
- The Request for Proposals (RFP) review for the Social Services Administration Building has been completed, with Smoke Architecture receiving the highest evaluation; a recommendation letter has been prepared for submission to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Proposals received were:
  - Bridgman Collaborative, $570,718
  - A-49, $355,350
  - 3rd Line Studio, $182,000
  - Smoke Architecture, $287,187
- RFP for the Community Round House and the Mount Lake Family Cultural Centre remain open, with submissions closing on June 25, 2026
- Community engagement on the project designs is anticipated to begin in July 2026, with completed designs targeted for mid-December 2026

10) New Business:

a) Delegation of Signing Authority – Natasha Becker

MOTION: 2026-06-25-06 **That Chief and Council endorse full signing and administrative responsibilities to the Director of Operations as outlined in the Serpent River First Nation Delegated Authorities Policy III-20**	
Moved by	Angela Trudeau
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Council reviewed a briefing note regarding the alignment of the Director of Operations with the Serpent River First Nation Delegated Authorities Policy III-20 - The policy, endorsed in 2023, outlines the responsibilities and authorities delegated to various management personnel, including the Director of Operations, for the day to day administration of programs and services - The new Director of Operations, Natasha Becker, commenced her role on June 15, 2026, and the transition of responsibilities from the Interim Director of Operations (James Owl) is nearing completion - The Serpent River First Nation Governance Manual identifies the Director of Operations as the lead responsible position for day to day administrative operations - To align with the Serpent River First Nation Governance Manual and Administrative and Finance Policies, Chief and Council endorsed full signing and administrative authorities for Natasha Becker, Director of Operations in accordance with the Serpent River First Nation Delegated Authorities Policy III-20	

b) Scrutineer for Spring Membership Vote

MOTION: 2026-06-25-07 **That Chief and Council appoint Kerri Weirmeir as a scrutineer for the Spring Membership Vote to take place on June 27-28, 2026, and authorize the use of the OneFeather Digital Voting Platform, and designated in-person polling stations for the administration of the vote**	
Moved by	Angela Trudeau
Seconded by	Nicole Pelletier
CARRIED	By Consensus
- The Spring 2026 Membership Vote will be conducted through a combination of online voting via the OneFeather platform and in-person polling stations - To ensure the integrity and accountability of the voting process, scrutineers are required to observe voting activities and the tabulation of results - The Loon Doodem (Governance and Membership Committee) supported bringing forward the appointment of a scrutineer in advance the vote - A call for expressions of interest was issued to community members in late May 2026. Kerri Weirmeir expressed interest and was identified as the proposed scrutineer for the upcoming vote	

c) Certificate of Possession Requests

- Council reviewed briefing notes regarding five (5) Certificate of Possession requests. Following discussion, all 5 requests were deferred pending further review. As follows:
  - Theresa Labelle
  - Shirley McLeod
  - Lionel Groulx
  - Jesse Darby
  - Beverly Fanjoy
- The five (5) requests had previously been endorsed during the previous Chief and Council term, but were returned by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for revisions to the supporting documentation, including updated wording and additional information required before the applications could proceed
- Council discussed historical Certificate of Possession practices, land allocations processes, outstanding applications, and the need for consistent policies governing land transfers and future land use
- Councillor Pelletier raised concerns regarding historical Certificate of Possession practices, including her recollection that historical 200 x 300 lot allocations had previously been applied, historical policy application, and whether changes to past practices had formally been documented
- Councillor Trudeau noted that the Marten Doodem (Lands Committee) had previously discussed historical Certificate of Possession files, lot allocation practices, and the development of consistent policy to support future decisions
- Council discussed the need for further policy development and consistent processes to guide future Certificate of Possession decisions
- The five (5) Certificate of Possession requests were deferred pending further review

11) Community Questions and Answers:

Community Advancement Fund (CAF)
An update was requested regarding Community Advancement Fund (CAF) applications. It was noted that a high volume of applications has been received, and the development of supporting policies is ongoing. Processing will take time as the review continues.

Robinson Huron Treaty (RHT) Past Annuities Settlement audit
An update was requested regarding the Robinson Huron Treaty (RHT) Past Annuities Settlement audit. It was noted that the *draft* audit was presented earlier in the meeting (item 9 A) and will be made available to community once finalized.

Council Meeting Packages
A request made regarding community access to Council meeting packages. It was noted that the administrative capacity to prepare and distribute Council meeting packages for release is currently not available. Information is shared with attendees on screen where appropriate.

Housing Matter
A community member addressed Council regarding a recent eviction notice**.** The member was advised that any appeal or request for reconsideration should be submitted in writing to the Housing Committee for review in accordance with the established process.

12) Next Meeting Date(s):

- Thursday, July 9, 2026

13) Adjournment:

MOTION: 2026-06-25-08 **That Chief and Council adjourn the Chief and Council Meeting of Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 8:37 PM**	
Moved by	Angela Trudeau
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Councillor Urquhart closed the meeting with a prayer/smudge	