

Economic Development Pillar

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Workgroup Meeting Notes May 30, 2023

The workgroup began discussing the legal aspect of Tribe's Sovereign Constitutional rights as they have never adopted the commercial code as per State regulations. They use a Uniform Commercial Code as they can use the Tribal Court for any disputes, sort of a Tribal Corporation. There is a problem as vendors or businesses may not want to go under the jurisdiction of the Tribal Court, which is a legal issue.

Note: Workgroup will need to define this as part of a goal or objective: An LLC (Limited Liability Corporation) can be created under Tribal law. Certain tax benefits for tribal members. They couldn't purchase items from off-reservation. They wouldn't have the income tax exemption. Gray area, would they be chartered under the IRA; Section 17 Corporations, all chartered under Article 13 of the Tribal Constitution and seek Article 25 Section of Federal Regulations. Federal status; are there any downsides to this? This would be something to investigate. The benefit of Section 17 clearly states the tax exemption. The Tribal Constitution designates chartered businesses. There could be other advantages to it. Determine this under the Constitution.

Subsidiary LLCs could be created under Section 17; charter businesses first then become viable under this section. If operating under the reservation. How does the tax regime fall under E-Commerce?

MTL can assist to facilitate; MTE does the business portion and government does the policy; for this to change, it would need leadership development to change the Constitution. Developing a resource structuring (educational); per zoning codes as Agriculture leases land available. What land is available for business development? Only the Tribe by Constitution can sell. With this or by this, the Tribe would need to go through an MTE decision on how to commercialize maple syrup, just like timber.

WRDC – what department, where do you go?? Whether it is set up to be viable. What is the process? A guide to research whether a business is viable. This area has been looking for tribal businesses and entrepreneurial workshops, this is an area that they want to expand on. There are a lot of resources out there, it's a matter of bringing them together.

There is a process for this; something that isn't parceled is open for forestry if chosen, but how well does that process work for one entity and process for those who may start promotional materials, where can you buy land? Educated adults who are not aware. Where are the lots or are any available? What is the process? Getting on a list for a waterfront lot, residential, AG, and commercial: none is available. There really hasn't been a demand. We had a zoning map and looked at every parcel. Parcels that are already available to move into. There was no interest in commercial development. WRDC has the lease for the old gas station next to Community Development. This is leased under the WRDC. Tribe has its own interest in running its businesses.

State-run Enterprise Development is an example of how the Tribe would own the business, an example of this was Norway – they own the business. There are ways to get this done as you have:

- 1) Tribally owned; MTE, MCR, and WRDC – can set up a separate charter by Constitution; all businesses through the charter.
- 2) Tribal member owned – sole proprietorship, LLC.
- 3) Everything else

Chapter 18, awareness can be created through the Communication Department.

Note: There will be no workgroup meeting held on June 6, 2023, due to facilitators attending MTL Retreat.

Next meeting scheduled for June 13, 2023, at Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center (Family Center) at 9-11 a.m.

Workgroup Meeting Notes May 23, 2023

The workgroup began by reviewing the notes from last week; thereby, beginning conversation on the RFP that is being created for the Advisory Board for the EDA Grant to do an Economic Assessment for the Legal, Financial, and Business Goal One of the 2007 MITW Strategic Plan. The Housing Study is being done by Woodland Financial Partners.

The workgroup began discussing the legal aspect of Tribe's Sovereign Constitutional rights as they have never adopted the commercial code as per State regulations. They use a Uniform Legal Code as they can use the Tribal Court for any disputes, sort of a Tribal Corporation. There is a problem as vendors or businesses may not want to go under the jurisdiction of the Tribal Court, which is a legal issue. An LLC (Limited Liability Corporation) can be created under Tribal law.

If there was an agreement with the State on the sales tax, business development would be a certainty on how the whole sales tax plays into E-Commerce. Again, we are speaking of the tax base.

When we speak of tribal members gaining land for business, they have no choice at this point as MTE holds all the leases; and there is no procedure or process that has been created. The workgroup had no idea as we believed it was either AG, Housing, or WRDC to lease the land. What land is available? For business development, only the Tribe by Constitution can sell. With this or by this, the Tribe would need to go through MTE's decision on how to commercialize maple syrup, just like timber.

MTL can assist to facilitate; MTE does the business portion and government does the policy; for this to change, it would need leadership development to change the constitution. Developing a resource structuring (educational); per zoning codes, as Agriculture leases land available.

WRDC – what department, where do you go?? Whether it is set up to be viable. What is the process? A guide to research whether a business is viable.

Next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, 9 am – 11 am; at Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center (Family Center).

Workgroup Meeting Notes May 16, 2023

The workgroup began by discussing efficiency and potential for business and/or economic development, the benefit vs. non-beneficial. We are already shooting ourselves in the foot by saying "What if?" We need to focus on identifying the issues and developing the goals and objectives and not to solve the problem. There will need to be completed a GAP Analysis as we don't know what previous feasibility studies have shown or indicated. There should be taxation on construction companies that do business on the reservation; materials are sent here as tax exempt, there should be some way to tax those materials once they are being used. There is also the factor of residential vs. commercial development. Create the environment – evaluation of the laws, are they effective or need to be revised?

The process continued with the workgroup creating notes on what they see are areas that need goals and objectives based on SWOT Analysis, review of previous goals & objectives, and Community Survey Data; they came up with the following groups in no order:

- Educate tribal members on creating wealth.
- Change mindset through education.
- Small Business education/training.
- Small Business Development support: catering, native artists, loggers, value-added.
- Taxes/loans.
- Value-added product development e.g., Community Kitchen.
- Strengthen legal, financial, physical, and people.
- Assist tribal members to start businesses.
- Increase access to capital for small businesses.

Next Grouping:

- Utilize combined purchasing/expenditures for efficiency (reduce costs).
- Procurement.
- Review all areas of revenue-making entities.
- Expand tribal tax e.g. Alcohol sales, soda sales, etc.
- Distribution Center.

Next Grouping:

- Multi-shift workforce.
- Skilled workforce.
- Infrastructure that improves the quality of life.
- Subsidized childcare.
- Jobs that help people have an improved quality of life.

Next Grouping

- Create business-friendly environment.
- Revenue Diversification.
- Identify land for business park.
- Develop infrastructure.
- Develop investment group.
- Legal land.
- Infrastructure.
- Legal involvement.
- Feasibility study.
- Common vision.
- Identify values.
- Align with values.
- Create the path to the vision.
- Ethics – e.g., ethical economic facilitation.

Next Grouping

- Capital projects – maple syrup, sturgeon coming home park.
- Leveraging grant funding.

Next Grouping

- Land Use Plan.
- Lean processes.
- Evaluate current conditions; legal, financial, physical, and people.
- Purchase land elsewhere.

Next Grouping (stand-alone)

- Market-based rentals; houses & apartments, tiny homes, increase access to housing.

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 9am – 11 am; Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center (Family Center).

Workgroup Meeting Notes May 9, 2023

Today's discussion included a review of the following:

- Site selectors; how do we hook up with the network. Response back as we can model the presentation, to be able to compete with other businesses.
- RFP – X business, what do you have to offer if this business were to come to your place.
- Tax breaks, trying to attract different business to our community.
- We are not in the game, business park, ready to go, we could have had the business here and not in Shawano.
- What level of business can we offer?
- Shawano Chamber is putting on a presentation of a panel - Wednesday May 17, 2023, 4:30-7:30 pm recruitment, retention, start up.
- Chamber should be started up again as part of our goals & objectives.

- Take off funeral home as a weakness; looking at a feasibility– it is more of an opportunity, should this be a venture for the small business owner rather than the Tribe itself.
- Leases should be followed; rec leases are not a right it is a privilege – housing lease rules or land lease should be followed. Enabling
- Why would anyone want to come to the reservation, it isn't only infrastructure, change in the mindset of following policies, rules...charging minimal fees, rec center, conservation tags, etc. everything shouldn't be free.
- Buy land somewhere else, instead of trying to develop on reservation.
- Working together with the local area for capacity building and partnering (Shawano Country Chamber); they still have a leadership program.
- Investment opportunity, that a Tribal member could reinvest with per capita payment. A business should be able to gain a return. Fractional ownership – theoretically, it is a starting point.
- Financial education, how to use or put your money to work for you. What trusted investments are out there? Not value driven.
- Not understanding the rules of grant funding programs and what it is used for.
- Wages being paid, are crazy high – businesses are subsidizing rental and housing.
- Opportunities for employment; economic development piece, have more business or look at creating a better quality of life – labor effort, get people working. The challenge is the government vs public sector jobs and the wage gap.
- Campground/Park – development area; political involvement, but it's hard to function, wages are an issue, inflation going up and nothing moves forward. Fast-food jobs were never created to give a great quality of life. Not every job is sufficient to support a family.
- What can we do besides increasing wages that would make them stay – membership, free for being an employee – build in more programming – daycare – subsidize the cost. Challenges are charging instead of giving everything for free.
- OBJECTIVE: Charging for tribal services or things they offer, cost of doing business; not giving everything for free
- Need to have a balance; we are looking at charging to see the value; not appreciated.
- THREAT: WHAT IF? Many great ideas die because many think of the negatives instead of the positives.
- Align with the values of the Tribe, this may change to a positive. How do we align?
- Feasibility studies are recommendations that could make things go forward, generally, when one person doesn't agree the whole idea gets voted down. It should be followed through, too much money is being spent on all these studies.
- Costs are substantial and not thought of for losses of revenue; shoot us in the foot
- Showing impacts of the decisions made that don't realize the losses that come about, make it visual.

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 9 am – 11 am; at Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center (Family Center).

Workgroup Meeting Notes May 2, 2023

The group discussed who else should be involved in this workgroup:

Darrel Pyawasay – Solar Energy

Review of Prior SWOT Analysis: No changes – keep what is listed. Review of Current SWOT Analysis

- Weaknesses to include:
 - Land locked in sustained yield
 - Human capital & retention
 - Many hurdles to gain funeral home
- Middle Village: Tax base –County/Townships

- Opportunities to include:
 - Gain investments elsewhere and bring monies back to reservation
 - Develop franchises off reservation; bring revenue to support tribal membership
 - Small Business ventures: EBay, Etsy, etc...support marketing efforts
 - Square – another tool for small businesses to use (portability)
 - WRDC – Promote membership to start businesses
 - State run – we have a deeper ability to gain funds

Note: The workgroup indicated that we need to look at infrastructure as we don't recruit industry of any sort.