

Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission Minutes
June 6, 2025
Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
Community Center - 568 Foxcroft Road, Houlton, ME
Public Live Stream Provided

Commissioners Present (In person and by Zoom):

Robert (Bert) Polchies, Robert (Bob) Checkoway, Nels Kramer, Joseph (Joey) Barnes, Sam St. John, Oshikiyol (Ezekiel) Crofton-Macdonald, Gordon (Nels) Kramer, Darren Ranco, Rena Newell, and Newell Lewey.

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Jill Tompkins (Executive Director), Rachel Bell (Projects Coordinator)

Guests Present: Katie Donlan (PhD. Candidate, University of Colorado), Greg Curtis (Head, Special Collections and Projects, University of Maine Fogler Library), Christian Cotz (Deputy Secretary of State), Ralph Cammack (Director of Research for Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness)

Public: By audio stream

Opening: Newell Lewey offered an honoring to the Creator.

Roll Call/Introductions: Those in attendance in person and on video introduced themselves. A quorum was declared.

Report on Wabanaki Cultural Competency Training—Survey Results & Curriculum Development.

Guest: Ralph Cammack, Director of Research Wabanaki Public Health & Wellness

Ralph Cammack provided a Power Point presentation on the survey results and answered questions from the Chair and Commissioners. The survey results will be used to help direct the development of the curriculum.

Review of Agenda and Declaration of Quorum: Quorum was declared. Commissioners reviewed the agenda and made no changes.

Approval of Minutes: Review and Approval of January 6, 2025, January 10, 2025, and April 18th Draft Minutes.

- 1. Motion to approve the January 6, 2025 minutes made by Bob Checkoway.**
Seconded by Joey Barnes. Vote in favor: 9; opposed: 0, abstained: 1 (Newell Lewey).
- 2. Motion to approve the January 10, 2025 minutes made by Joey Barnes. Seconded by Rena Newell.** Vote in favor: unanimous.
- 3. Motion to approve the April 18, 2025 minutes made by Bob Checkoway. Seconded by Sam St. John.** Vote in favor: 9; opposed: 0; abstained: 1 (Joey Barnes).

Update on State-Appointed Commissioner Vacancies:

Newell Lewey has been emailing Jerry Reid and plans to make time to meet with him in person to discuss possible new commissioners. Bob Checkoway encouraged folks who might be interested in serving on the Commission to please reach out to him or Newell.

Report on Revision of 1998 MITSC Fishing Rules & Possible Tribal-State MOU on GIS Data Sharing:

Bob Checkoway provided a detailed update on the fishing rules process, referencing topics that are still in need of further discussion and determination, such as GIS mapping, heritage waters designations, and fish stocking, etc.

Reflections on the 132nd Legislature and Impact on Wabanaki Nations and Citizens:

Zeke Crofton-MacDonald, the President of the Maine Wabanaki Alliance, gave a summary of this year's legislative session results and final updates on bills relating to the tribal nations.

Approval of Bylaws Amendments:

Commissioners were asked if they approved of the amendments made to the MITSC By-laws. It was mentioned that the amendments had previously been on the agenda and discussed at the April 18, 2025 meeting. (Proposed amendments attached at Appendix A.)

- 4. Motion to approve the amendments to the By-Laws as presented made by Joey Barnes. Seconded by Zeke Crofton-MacDonald.** Vote in favor: unanimous.

Financial, Grant Projects & Staff Activity Reports:

Pat Mallar provided an update for the Commissioners on the migration of QuickBooks from the desktop to the online version.

Jill and Rachel referred the Commissioners to the written staff report and provided updates on subjects not previously addressed during the meeting.

Proposed Meeting Schedule:

The idea of shifting MITSC meetings from six times per year to quarterly meetings was discussed. There was a consensus to adopt a quarterly meeting schedule with the understanding that special meetings, especially during the legislative session, could be called as needed.

5. Motion to adopt a quarterly MITSC meeting schedule, with the understanding that special meetings can be called as needed in between, made by Joey Barnes. Seconded by Sam St. John. Vote in favor: unanimous.

Meeting Schedule – 2025-2026

November 13, 2025 – Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik

January 9, 2026 – Location to be determined

April 10, 2026 – Location to be determined

July 10, 2026 – Location to be determined

October 9, 2026 – Location to be determined

Next MITSC Meeting: July 18, 2025, Mi'kmaq Nation

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