

# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road · Saint Paul, Minnesota · 55155-4037

Office of the Commissioner

651-259-5555



October 26, 2009

COPY

Mr. Bruce Johnson, Director  
Division of Resource Management  
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe  
115 Sixth Street Northwest – Suite E  
Cass Lake, Minnesota 56633

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for your letter dated September 24, 2009, regarding the tribal representatives for the Leech Lake Advisory Committee. The participation by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in this process to update the 2005-2010 fisheries management plan is critical, and we appreciate the Band's involvement.

To clarify any potential misunderstandings about the scope of the recommendations that the Advisory Committee will propose to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) in regard to cormorant management, we will provide a copy of this correspondence to the committee. The MN DNR recognizes that the cormorants nest on tribal lands and that the control actions on the island are under the control of the Leech Lake Band under constraints identified by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

We anticipate that the Advisory Council will make recommendations on four key areas including walleye stocking, fishing regulations, cormorant management, and habitat protection. These recommendations would encompass identifying walleye population objectives, management actions, thresholds, models, and monitoring plans for each of these four key areas. The MN DNR will consider the committee's recommendations and other public input when approving a 2011-2015 fisheries plan for Leech Lake.

We appreciate collaborating with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and look forward to continuing this relationship in the future.

Sincerely,

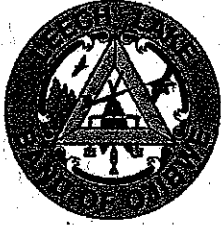
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Holsten'.

Mark Holsten  
Commissioner

MH/RP/jls

c Mr. David R. Schad, Director, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Mr. Ronald D. Payer, Chief, Fisheries Management Section, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Mr. Joe Mix, Assistant Regional Fisheries Manager, Grand Rapids  
Mr. Doug Schultz, Leech Lake Specialist, Walker  
Ms. Kathy DonCarlos, Policy and Planning Program Consultant, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Mr. Mike Carroll, Regional Director, DNR Northwest Region Headquarters – Bemidji





# Leech Lake Band Of Ojib

115 Sixth Street NW, Suite E, Cass Lake, MN 56633  
218-335-7400 - fax 218-335-7430

*Arthur "Archie" LaRose, Chairman*  
*Michael Bongo, Secretary/Treasurer*

**District I Representative**  
*Robbie M. Howe*

**District II Representative**  
*Lyman L. Losh*

**District III Representative**  
*Eugene Whitebird*

Sept. 24, 2009

Mark Holsten, Commissioner  
MN Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

Dear Commissioner Holsten,

One of the original tribal personnel we had appointed to the Leech Lake Advisory Task Force will be unable to participate in the Committee so I am writing to request a change in our appointments. Steve Mortensen, one of our biologists, will continue to be the lead person with respect to the cormorant issue, but we would also like to appoint Brad Michaud to the committee. In the event either of these individuals is unable to attend a meeting, I, Bruce Johnson, DRM Director, will serve as an alternate.

We would also like to reiterate, as we did in our first letter, that the Leech Lake Reservation, Division of Resources Management (DRM), like the DNR shares many of the same concerns about Leech Lake that we co-manage. With respect to the cormorants, however, we must remind you that these birds nest on Tribal Lands so management of this colony is the responsibility of the Band, under the constraints of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. We are willing to discuss our management of this colony with DNR as well as the Advisory Committee, but management decisions will be based upon what the DRM finds appropriate for the colony. This committee was set up to provide management direction for the DNR, not the DRM. It is fairly evident from the first few meetings that a number of individuals on the Committee are under the impression that they will be setting management direction for the DRM for cormorants. It would be advisable for the DNR to inform the Committee of this reality or some are likely to be disappointed and continue to press their agenda through other means.

Sincerely,

Bruce Johnson, Director  
Division of Resource Management  
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

cc:  
RTC  
DRM  
Steve Mortensen  
Brad Michaud  
Michael Carroll  
Kathy DonCarlos  
Joe Mix

*DAVE S*: Please reply  
under Commissioner Holsten's  
name, and return to CMO.

Thank you.

#09-012 By: *ASAA*

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COMMISSIONER