

Nevada Indian Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 25, 2022

9:30 AM

Meeting Location: Virtual via Zoom

Commissioners Present:

Kostan Lathouris – Chair
Kelly Krolicki – Commissioner
Staci Emm – Commissioner
Tammi Tiger – Commissioner

Commissioners Absent:

Brian Wadsworth – Vice Chair

Staff Present:

Stacey Montooth – Executive Director
Sarina Nez – Office Coordinator
Bobbi Rahder – Museum Director
Sari Nichols – Program Officer

Others Present:

Stacey Bacca Manning – Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Nation – Invocation
Ian Carr – Deputy Attorney General – Nevada Attorney General’s Office
Scott Anderson – Tribal Liaison – Nevada Secretary of State
Fran Maldonado – Tribal Liaison – Nevada Division of Child & Family Services – Adoption*
Katrina Fowler – Tribal Liaison – Nevada Division of Aging & Disability*
Tiffany Davis – Tribal Liaison – Silver State Health Insurance Exchange
Tera Bruhn – Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum – Contracted Staff

Heather xx League of Women Voters

Briza Virgen – Tribal Liaison – Division of Health Care Financing & Policy*
Peter Gower – Strategy Director – The Nature Conservancy
Monica Schiffer – Tribal Liaison – Nevada Division of Health Care Financing and Policy*
Devin Wilcox-McCombs – Social Services Program Specialist – Nevada Dept of Agriculture
Deserea Quintana – Executive Director – Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN)
Deryn Pete – Chair – Las Vegas Paiute Nation
Ila Yazzie – Vice Chair – Las Vegas Paiute Nation
Kailey Musso – Tribal Liaison – Nevada Department of Wildlife
Evan Rush – Deputy Director – Department of Veterans Services
Bernadette Nieto – Tribal Administrator – Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
Crystal Harjo – Tribal Liaison – FEMA R9

Others Present (continued):

Brandie Harry – Human Resources Assistant – Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN)

Cassie Snow – Chapter Chair – Climate Reality Las Vegas

Daphne Hooper – Director of Indigenous Relations – University of Nevada

Debbie George – Chair – Lovelock Paiute Nation

Dominique Etchegoyhen – Deputy Director – Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Guinevere Hobby – Transportation Planner/Analyst – Nevada Department of Transportation

Jay Martin – Tribal Health Preparedness Coordinator – Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security

Jessica Imotichey – Tribal Relations Specialist – U.S. Census

Marla McDade Williams – Deputy Director – Nevada Department of Health & Human Services

Michon Eben – Tribal Historic Preservation Officer – Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

Rochanne Downs – NAGPRA Coordinator – University of Nevada

Samantha Szesciotka – Project Analyst – Nevada Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs

Scott Carey – Land Use Planner – Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Amber Torres – Chair – Walker River Paiute Nation

Dr. Joshua Bonde – Director – Nevada Museums

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

I. Convene meeting, roll call, and establish quorum

Chairman Lathouris convened the meeting. Executive Director Montooth took roll call. Quorum was established.

II. Invocation

Stacey Bacca Manning, citizen of the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Nation provided the invocation.

III. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Chairman Lathouris provided the NIC land acknowledgement.

IV. Introductions of Meeting Participants

Chairman Lathouris invited participants to introduce themselves. As evidenced on the attendance sheet, there was great representation across tribal nations and many agencies and departments around the state.

V. Introductions of New State Employees/Partners/Appointments

Executive Director Montooth, introduced new state employees, partners and noted new appointments:

- **Samantha Szesciotka** is serving in a new role with the Division of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. Her position was created specifically to focus solely on cultural agencies, the Nevada Indian Commission and the Nevada Arts Council. She is doing all the marketing for all of those agencies.
- **Monica Schiffer** is working at the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services in the Medical Programs Unit and assists Tribal liaison Briza Virgen.

V. Introductions of New State Employees/Partners/Appointments (*continued*)

- **Evan Rush** is the new deputy director of benefits for the Nevada Department of Veterans Services.
- **Marla McDade-Williams** is the deputy director of programs for the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services. She oversees all of the divisions: Healthcare, Financing, and Policy, Public and Behavioral Health, Aging and Developmental Services, Welfare and Supportive Services, and Child and Family Services.
- **Katrina Fowler** is now the Tribal liaison, for Aging and Disability Services.
- **Daphne Emm-Hooper** is the new Indigenous relations director at the University of Nevada. The job is a direct report to UNR President Brian Sandoval, and Daphne will have access and provide input to the President regarding policies regarding Native communities.
- **Rochanne Downs** is the new program manager for Indigenous relations at the UNR. Rochanne was the former cultural resource and education director for the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Nation.
- **Walker River Paiute Chair Amber Torres** was appointed to serve on the United States Secretary of the Interior's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC)
- **Dr. Joshua Bonde**, of the Te-Moak Nation, was appointed as the director of Nevada State Museums

VI. Initial Public Comment

Marla McDade Williams had comments about her role as the Nevada Indian Commission representative to the Statewide Land use Planning Advisory Council (SLUPAC). She said she attended three meetings so far. The council is staffed by Scott Carey with the Division of State Lands, and he was instrumental in changing Nevada Law to have this representation formally on the SLUPAC. Her role on the committee is to encourage tribes to build their own infrastructure related to land use planning. There are opportunities to develop relationships with local governments and the state when staff can recognize initiatives that are undertaken in these areas. The committee includes representatives from all 17 Nevada counties as well as the Nevada League of Cities and the Nevada Association of Counties. Their next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 19 at 9:00 a.m. at Elko Convention Center in Elko. It will be a hybrid meeting in-person as well as virtual, and will be held in conjunction with the Nevada Rural Planning Conference.

The committee has reviewed an Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) land study looking at the short and long-term developable land constraints in most of northwestern Nevada. They also reviewed the Nevada Economic Assessment Project out of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and also the Socioeconomic Impact Assessment for Lithium Nevada that was done by UNR. The goal is that tribes start to develop inputs into these systems so that they ensure that what they're doing is done in a sustainable way.

In her role as a Deputy Director of Nevada's Department of Health and Human Services, Ms. Williams has an open-door policy and a goal to ensure the network of Tribal liaisons meets the needs of Nevada tribes.

Briza Virgen from the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, Nevada Medicaid, said her division sent out letters to all of the 27 Tribal nations requesting contact updates. She explained

VI. Initial Public Comment (*continued*)

that Nevada Medicaid has a federal partner with CMS, or Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Her division writes up tribal notification letters with updates, proposals, state plan amendments and waivers, policy updates and possible proposals. Those are sent out to Tribal contacts and also shared by the (ITCN). Tribes are encouraged to request separate consultations on topics of concern and the division is more than happy to accommodate those as well.

Cassie Snow with the Realty Project Las Vegas sent a comment through the Zoom chat thanking everyone for allowing her to listen today. She reported that the local chapter is looking forward to building a stronger partnership with the NIC and wants to be an ally on the topics and initiatives discussed today and in the future.

Chair Lathouris asked that everyone look at the draft policy pursuant to AB 264 on page 88 of the meeting materials. It is the Chair's goal that as a Commission, they can approve this policy at the next quarterly meeting. This is the protocol and policy in line with AB 264, the policy to promote collaboration between state agencies and Tribes. It provides background about how this policy came to be, and the purpose which is to facilitate positive and effective government to government relations between tribes in the State of Nevada, principles, including recognizing and respecting sovereignty, government to government relations, efficiency, collaboration, communication, informal communication, confidentiality, healthcare delivery and access, economic development access, partnerships, inter-governmental coordination collaboration. It includes cultural and linguistic competency as well. There is a list of definitions as part of that policy. There's the protocol, collaboration and communication, and the role of state agency tribal liaisons. It covers tribal advisory boards, work groups, informal communication with tribes, how that is done or with organizations, what consultation looks like. There is a federal requirement to consult with tribes, and the State of Nevada actually does require state agencies to do consultation with tribes in Nevada. This is a policy that is designed to carry that out.

The Chair said this is something he would like to approve at the next quarterly meeting, after Tribal input. He also wants to hear back from state agencies about what they expect from this policy and what works, what their concerns are, so hopefully that can be addressed in the draft that they ultimately approve. If anyone has input or comments on the draft policy, now is the time to let them be known.

Commissioner Tiger said since this draft came out, there's been federal legislation regarding tribal consultation and collaboration. Perhaps they should send the draft to some national partners, like Native American Rights Fund or Indian Collective who have been working to advance tribal consultation federally.

Chair Lathouris said yes, there have been some new federal developments, for example, stewardship of tribal lands and traditional ecological knowledge memorandums as well. If there are federal best practices out there that they can adopt, he's all for it.

VI. Initial Public Comment (*continued*)

Marla McDade Williams said she hopes that additional review doesn't hold the process up any longer. It needs to be finalized for the state agencies to really be able to start holding ourselves accountable to its provisions. They just can't keep this in limbo for much longer.

Chair Lathouris agreed. He planned to make a motion to approve the draft at the next meeting. They can change it if they need to, but they want to hear comments between now and then because at that point, they hope to have the policy approved.

Briza Virgen said she would be happy to share the draft with all the other DHHS tribal liaisons so they can review it together. They did review it back in February of 2021, but it would be great to be able to review the most updated version.

VII. Approval of April 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes (For Discussion and Possible Action)

There were two changes to be made on the meeting minutes. On page 11, there needs to be an editorial change to reflect the proper acronym (N-O-A-A should be N-O-A-H) and on page 20, the language should reflect the legislation regarding the use of "waiver of fees."

Motion: Approve April 25, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes with 2 changes

By: Commissioner Emm

Second: Commissioner Krolicki

Vote: Motion passed unanimously as amended

The motion passed with four Commissioners present voting in favor. There were zero objections, zero abstentions, but one absence.

Commissioner Emm asked for a point of clarification about something that was in the minutes regarding a needs assessment process on health. She had recommended that a health needs assessment be added as a priority of the Nevada Indian Commission. Her question now is there already a needs assessments going on in Indian country regarding health and services and should the NIC keep that as a niche priority? Maybe the Nevada Indian Commission doesn't need to duplicate efforts already being made.

Marla McDade Williams, Deputy Director of Department of Health and Human Services said they don't have specific needs assessments for tribal communities. They have a number of needs assessments including one related to their grants management unit and funding that they issue is out of the state's tobacco settlement dollars. They also recently completed a needs assessment on state opioid issues. Under that particular program there's an opportunity for technical assistance specifically to tribal communities for needs assessments related to that pot of funding. The Office of Analytics assesses incidences of morbidity and mortality throughout the state for a variety of chronic disease conditions. There are many significant health issues that need to be addressed. Ms. Williams suggested potentially having HHS come to a future meeting to present the information/data that they have, and then maybe they can make a plan moving forward from there.

VIII. Executive Director Report – Stacey Montooth (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Executive Director Montooth said she was prepared for any questions the Commissioners might have about her latest Executive Director's Report.

Commissioner Tiger had a question about Appendix B, the outline of voter services provided for tribal nations. Could the Director give some more details?

Chair Lathouris asked if the Director could identify any potential actions that tribes might need to be taking as part of the Executive Director Report? Is there anything that tribes will need to be looking to do based on what's included within the report?

Executive Director Montooth said that August 1 is the deadline for completed forms to be turned in regarding requests for voter services for the General Election in November. "Voter services" means tribes have successfully requested and are working with their respective county Registrar's office on either an election day polling site, which would include election day voter registration, or early voting, and it also includes drop off locations. The Director said there are a litany of climate change committees and task force working groups that her agency is involved in. Most notably, next month the Environmental Justice Group will be hosting an event in Las Vegas, and there will be more information about that forthcoming.

Commissioner Krolicki asked for an update on the funding for the bakery at the Stewart site. Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum shared the good news that the funding to renovate the bakery building for an environmentally controlled museum collection storage was just approved using American Rescue Plan Act funding by the Interim Finance Committee.

Commissioner Emm had a question on the ARPA funding, the American Rescue Plan Act. Historically, the University has charged tribes for community economic development strategies (CEDS) plans. Is that still the case now that they brought additional money to work with Tribes?

Executive Director Montooth said she did not know the answer to that. The latest information is that there will be a specific event for Tribal leaders to attend, and in the interim, all of the Tribal leaders have been invited up to Elko for a regional planning session. And that is being organized by Professor Fred Steinman and the University of Nevada School of Business. Marla McDade Williams mentioned the next SLUPAC meeting will be held in conjunction with this planning session.

Daphne Emm-Hooper, Director of Indigenous Relations, University of Nevada, said she thought the intention was to have the CEDS documents completed with this funding. The University did receive grant funding and they are working on a summit towards the end of the year to coordinate and compile those CEDS documents without fees to the Tribes.

Commissioner Emm said it would be great on a future agenda to get them to discuss exactly what is going to be done. Tribes have to have an CEDS plan to access economic development administration funds for infrastructure, so this is a huge opportunity for the Nevada tribes if they're not charging for CEDS plans.

VIII. Executive Director Report – Stacey Montooth (*continued*)

Executive Director Montooth said she will invite Dr. Steinman to present at a future meeting about the completed CEDS plans and the process to have a CEDS plan developed.

There were no additional comments, questions or concerns about the Executive Directors Report.

Motion: Accept and approve the Executive Director’s Report as presented

By: Chair Lathouris

Second: Commissioner Tiger

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

The motion passed with the four Commissioners present voting in favor. There were zero objections, zero abstentions, but one absence.

IX. Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum Report (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director of the Stewart Indian School, reported that as part of the Stewart Father's Day Powwow, they had a grand opening for the Cultural Center. They had many wonderful speakers as well as Stewart alumni from all over the western states. They were open for the two days of the Powwow, and probably had about 500 visitors over those two days.

The Stewart Cultural Center & Museum will be participating with the Ku Stevens family at their second Remembrance Run on August 14. The runners will be taking off from Yerington, running to Stewart this time, and there will be a feed as well as some speakers from tribal leaders. They will be doing a ceremony at the Washoe Cemetery which just had a cleanup over this last weekend.

The National Historic Landmark application is in the works. The National Park Service has offered to pay to complete the revisions to the application. As soon as they get the revised application, Ms. Rahder will send it out to everyone.

There were no additional comments, questions or concerns about the Executive Directors Report.

Motion: Accept and approve the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum Report as Presented

By: Chair Lathouris

Second: Commissioner Krolicki

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

The motion passed with the four Commissioners present voting in favor. There were zero objections, zero abstentions, but one absence.

X. Stewart Father's Day Powwow (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Sarina Nez provided details of the Stewart Father's Day Powwow reporting that the event was a huge success. There was a COVID vaccination outreach in collaboration with ITCN. Festivities featured Supaman, comedians James and Ernie, and DJ Element. Supaman also participated in the Saturday Powwow grand entry. There were about 120 registered dancers, 5 drum groups, a group of 16 volunteers, and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Unity Youth Group. Beyond the two grand entries, highlights in the arena included recognition of military Veterans, Stewart alumni, and SISCC&M volunteer Larry Hale.

There were a total of 40 arts and crafts vendors. Moving vendors allowed for a much larger arena and more seating area for spectators, and dancers seemed to enjoy the larger arena to be seen and have more space to dance. The Stewart alumni enjoyed their time at the Powwow, but they said they missed the alumni barbecue. Ms. Nez has worked with Travel Nevada to create an updated survey for visitors, vendors, and alumni regarding their experiences. Results of that survey will help guide the planning for 2023.

Ms. Nez said they are already looking at the 2023 Powwow. Tents and water donations from Western Nevada Supply have been confirmed. Dr. Bela Toth of the Washoe Tribe has contacted the committee regarding operating a first aid station. Two arts and craft vendors already have verbally reserved their space for 2023.

Commissioner Emm added that the powwow was wonderful, and coordinators deserve a lot of praise for their hard work and dedication. The Chair agreed and asked if there were further comments. There were none.

There were no additional comments, questions or concerns about the powwow report.

Motion: Accept and approve the Stewart Father's Day Powwow Report as presented

By: Chair Lathouris

Second: Commissioner Krolicki

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

The motion passed with the four Commissioners present voting in favor. There were zero objections, zero abstentions, but one absence.

Before addressing Agenda Item XI, Dr. Josh Bonde introduce himself. A member of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone, Dr. Bonde said he is honored to be the new director of the Nevada State Museum.

XI. Report: 2020 U.S. Census for Nevada's American Indian Population

Jessica Imotichey, the U.S. Census Bureau Tribal Relations Specialist and Tribal citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, reported on the Decennial 2020 Census results.

XI. Report: 2020 U.S. Census for Nevada's American Indian Population (continued)

The first level of data that was released was Apportionment Data, or the state level data. The Census Bureau also released the 2020 Redistricting Data, and that is at the city and county level. Additionally, they released the Post Enumeration Survey Data (PES), which is quality control data, essentially the over and under counts was released.

Unfortunately, Indian Country again had an undercount of 5.64 %. That is higher than it was in 2010, but it is not statistically significant. The Census Bureau has now made permanent a four-person Tribal Relations Team.

Much of what Indian Country is anxious to learn is the Housing and Demographic Profile Data. That's the detailed level of data that will give specific tribal breakdowns. That detailed data will not be out until 2023.

In the meantime, the Bureau is using the American Community Survey Data. That provides one-year and five-year estimates. It's a sampling of data, whereas the Decennial data is an actual full count of every single household and every single individual.

Another valuable Bureau device is the My Tribal Area tool. A user can enter the name of a Tribe to find basic demographic information for that reservation area. It is limited geographically to reservations and does not include urban areas.

On August 16, for the first time using a Federal Register Notice, the Census Bureau will seek feedback for planning the 2030 Census.

The Bureau will employ Tribal consultants in the future. They will host a virtual tribal consultation in related to the Federal Register Notice. They will also have an in-person tribal consultation tentatively slated for October 31, the Monday that the National Congress of American Indians Convention starts, which will be in-person in Sacramento.

Ms. Imotichey said the Bureau's Data Dissemination Specialist for Nevada, **Armando Mendoza**, was unable to attend this NIC meeting because he was having eye surgery. Ms. Imotichey said Mr. Mendoza can provide some one-on-one direct workshop and direct data polls, including grant writing workshops or specific niche of data that a Tribe or Tribal organization might want. He can tailor presentations based on the needed data.

Ms. Imotichey requested that Tribes and Tribal organizations send her an update of their Census core point of contact like their Tribal liaison. The US Census is job recruiting and will include areas within Nevada, and so they would really like to partner with Tribes to get some qualified applicants.

The Census Bureau conducts a Boundary and Annexation Survey annually, and they work with the Bureau Of Indian Affairs (BIA) on this. The BIA is responsible for affirming reservation lands and off-reservation trust lands annually with Tribes. The Boundary and Annexation Survey comes out every year, and

XI. Report: 2020 U.S. Census for Nevada's American Indian Population (continued)

typically the time period to respond is between January and March of a given year. This year it was extended to May. The BIA will be sending out letters to tribes around November or December.

Ms. Imotichey then presented a Power Point which included these highlights:

- A comparison of the 2010 Decennial information and the 2020 Decennial information based on general American Indian / Alaska Native (AINA) population data. Population has grown in terms of Nevada statewide as well as the two larger county areas within Clark County and Washoe County. Clark County's American Indian population grew about 64 percent.
- Five-year estimates from the American Community Survey Data based on the 2020 five-year estimate that was just released. Some demographic breakdown examples included levels of education, household income, marital status, veteran status, home ownership, etc. Using specific data sets, you can really pinpoint that to whatever your program or grant needs might be.
- Tenure. This is the difference between owning a home and renting a home. So for different types of housing programs, you can use this for planning, particularly for low-income housing or expanding housing within a reservation area. It gives you your population pool if you may be wanting to then rent or go into home ownership.
- Examples of data profiles. When you are looking at doing some individual data profiles within the DDS branch, staff can create data tables for you that are very customized. They can be race profiles, education profiles, household incomes, etc. You can overlay several tables to really give you a broader breadth and depth of some of the data that is available.
- Quick Facts Tool. Using this tool, you can pull different data tables and then compare them. You can compare them geographically, compare different years and so forth. You can compare them against all different types of things, and it will essentially do graphing for you. It will give you some side by side comparisons. You can download maps and charts. This is really great when you want to plug and play into some grant applications or if you're doing some strategic planning. Even for advocacy work it's really helpful. You can embed links into reports, and the DDS folks go through that in some of their training and can show you exactly how to use those tools.
- Data.census.gov is where the bulk of the data is located. They are launching a re-release of that website, with some of the updates on there. You'll find some guided You Tube videos which are called "data gems." They're typically two to five-minute videos that will walk you through, self-guided, in terms of how to pull data.
- There is no cost to any of these tools or services. It is all free, accessible data, and the training is free.

Commissioner Tiger asked about redistricting and the apportionment data that included AIAN alone and AIAN in combination. Commissioner Tiger asked if the U.S. Census got everyone. Ms. Imotichey said yes and recommended using the AIAN in combination for a broader depth of data.

Commissioner Tiger asked when the data that includes specific Tribes and the numbers represented in the Nevada will be available. Ms. Imotichey said the spring of 2023 which will include the detailed level of data including housing and demographic profiles.

XI. Report: 2020 U.S. Census for Nevada's American Indian Population (continued)

Commissioner Tiger asked if the American Community Survey (ACS) data is the same as the 2020 Census data, specifically the actual counts. Ms. Imotichey affirmed that the ACS, like most of the other surveys outside of the Decennial, are essentially a sample. Census staff goes through the process within that sampling methodology of extrapolating that to kind of tell the story of that Tribal reservation area from data. The Bureau wants to bring awareness to the importance of the American Community Survey and to increase responses. It is a much more detailed level of data than the Decennial Census is. It is a longer form, asks a lot more questions, asks more things related to transportation and broadband and other things that are really critical for our communities. The first Tribal Forum on American Community Survey will be held on August 16.

Executive Director Montooth thanked Ms. Imotichey for sharing such important information. She asked her if she were the Executive Director of the Nevada Indian Commission and someone said to her, "how many self-identified Native Americans are there in what we now call Nevada?" What would she say?

Ms. Imotichey said she knows there is often some "heartburn" related to self-identified information versus Tribal enrollment data. For 2020 the Bureau considered asking the question about actual enrollment and it was determined that it is not the federal government's business to get into enrollment and that that really is a Tribal sovereignty decision. Many urban programs do provide services to lineal descents versus having to just be an enrolled tribal member. Even Indian Health Service does some of that in urban health program areas.

Chair Lathouris asked if there were any other questions, comments, or concerns regarding this presentation, and there were none. He thanked Ms. Imotichey and said it is wonderful how many consultations the Bureau did with Tribes to make sure that this is something that is appropriate and that their values were represented.

XII. Report: Smart-From-The-Start Energy Planning

Peter Gower, Strategy Director for Energy, Infrastructure and Land Use with The Nature Conservancy in Nevada, said he would be addressing three things: some background about The Nature Conservancy, what Smart From the Start planning is, and then Next Steps, which includes a request for helping The Nature Conservancy in Nevada engage a little bit more with the tribes.

- Background about The Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Founded about 70 years ago, they have 4,000 staff globally. They work in 50 states and over 70 countries, and to date, The Nature Conservancy, through purchasing property and easements and other actions, have protected over 125 million acres around the world. In the State of Nevada there are several places that they work to protect. The Nature Conservancy Nevada uses specific strategies like:

Stewardship Strategy: working on the ground to manage the properties that Nature Conservancy own and work on, really those boots on the ground conservations efforts.

XII. Report: Smart-From-The-Start Energy Planning (*continued*)

Nature Conservancy Science Strategy: is the data and information that underpins all of the work being done. For example, some of the science that they're doing is taking in a lot of data in the Upper Truckee Watershed to understand what restoration would look like and where those priority restoration areas are. That helps inform partner organizations, land management agencies like the Forest Service, BLM, local governments and tribes that may have an interest in this area.

Resilient Water Strategy: focuses a lot on ground water dependent ecosystems in the state. The Nature Conservancy does their best to understand the complexities of it and put forth meaningful data and support with their partners regarding water.

Ground water dependent ecosystems is The Nature Conservancy's focus right now. The Nevada Water Project in partnership with the University of Nevada Reno is developing partners to understand what their challenges are related to water, workshopping some ideas, and understanding what the shared visions are. More information on the project and next steps can be found on the website: unr.edu/nevadawater

The Climate Action Initiative is an initiative that focuses on nature-based solutions to climate challenges. The Nature Conservancy works pulling in science and through advocacy work and some policy to really move this climate action initiative forward.

Resilient Public Lands is a space The Nature Conservancy really works with public land management agencies like the BLM and the Forest Service on restoration, ecosystem resilience strategies and programs. This strategy is looking at the balance of the renewable energy buildout and the need to decarbonize the energy infrastructure with the concurrent need to preserve and conserve natural resources and cultural resources throughout the state.

Mr. Gower summarized some of the work that The Nature Conservancy has done regarding Smart from the Start energy planning nationwide. There's the **Power of Place Study** which looked at locations for low impact development, particularly in this case to meet the needs of California's renewable energy portfolio standard. They looked at, again, **Cite, Win, Right**, which details low impact areas for wind energy development. They looked at opportunities for renewable energy redevelopment on former mine lands in West Virginia, and then produced a study, **Clean and Green Pathways**, which looked at six strategies related to global renewable energy buildout.

What The Nature Conservancy saw through developing this science is that the outcome of this energy buildout in terms of a footprint on the landscape, a zero carbon future in the west could have a footprint the size of Colorado and Wyoming combined. That's a huge energy footprint.

In Nevada, The Nature Conservancy is working on Smart from the Start Energy Planning, and Mining the Sun.

XII. Report: Smart-From-The-Start Energy Planning (*continued*)

The **Smart from the Start** energy planning approach identifies and prioritizes low impact areas where renewable energy and associated facilities like battery storage and transmission lines can be placed while minimizing or ideally avoiding impacts to the natural and cultural resources and other values on the landscape such as conservation and recreation.

The Nature Conservancy in partnership with three other non-governmental organizations has been working in this space for a number of years on initiatives and planning projects. Starting almost a decade ago they launched the **Solar Plan** which established Solar Energy Zones, and their current work is with Smart From the Start energy siding and the Smart From the Start energy planning consortium.

In recent years The Nature Conservancy has engaged in the State of Nevada's climate strategy and climate initiative. The state's climate plan includes mention of Smart From the Start as really an opportunity to optimize that siding and realize that balance with meeting those clean energy goals while avoiding or minimizing the impacts to those natural cultural and other conservation values. Similarly, the SLUPAC statement, State Land Use Planning Advisory Council, also issued a letter of support in support of the concept for Smart From the Start energy planning.

The Nature Conservancy in partnership with those other non-governmental organizations have been hosting bi-monthly interagency meetings. Called the **Smart From the Start Interagency Consortium**, it consists of the members from federal, state, and local entities. Executive Director Montooth has agreed to participate, and it will be great to have the perspective of the Nevada Indian Commission going forward on this consortium. They've also invited the Intertribal Council of Nevada to join this group. The purpose of the consortium and the meetings is to share information about what the various agencies and entities are working on and really find opportunities to achieve that Smart From the Start energy and infrastructure planning.

Another program under that Smart From the Start umbrella is **Mining the Sun**. This program has two components. The first one is identifying and mapping potential sites for renewable energy development, specifically on former and active mine land sites. The second is catalyzing the technology, the data, and the policy and funding opportunities to implement pilot projects on those sites. The Nature Conservancy is working through those steps now of identifying sites and pulling together partners to really get some projects moving forward on those sites.

Mr. Gower provided two examples of Mining the Sun projects:

- 1) The Carson River Mercury site. This is the Superfund site about 330 square miles along the Carson River and Northern Nevada, and the Environmental Protection Agency, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the BLM have partnered with a consultant to do a solar feasibility study of solar redevelopment opportunities in this area. As they move forward they will narrow down some of the sites within this larger area of where solar redevelopment could be a really viable reuse of some former mine lands.

XII. Report: Smart-From-The-Start Energy Planning (*continued*)

- 2) The Castleton Mill site in Lincoln County. Again, working with their national partners, including the National Renewable Energy Laboratory on a solar feasibility study for solar redevelopment opportunities in this area. There is a kickoff meeting on Wednesday to start a solar feasibility study of this former mine site. The solar feasibility study that NREL will be doing is looking at what opportunities from a technology perspective there are for solar on this site.

The Mining the Sun Program is a win-win-win in the sense of the former mine sites get a new life, they get redeveloped, they get cleaned up, and there's an environmentally positive and economic positive outcome in terms of the renewable energy development on the site.

For next steps, The Nature Conservancy is continuing to track and engage with some key projects such as the Green Link North projects, transmission line projects, looking at opportunities to scale up Mining the Sun sites, and seeing that there are other opportunities such as redeveloping the Anaconda Mine site. The Nature Conservancy is also looking into infrastructure for carbon management, and they are partnering with researchers at the University of Pennsylvania for this project.

The Nature Conservancy would like the opportunity to host listening sessions with the tribes to share this information and be able to listen and understand their perspectives related to some of these topics. They want to create a space where they can learn more from the tribes about their views on land use and remediation. They want to integrate tribes' information into the planning processes that play out for these type of projects. They want to know more about tribal energy needs and their thoughts on carbon capture and storage. This is an emerging technology with a lot of opportunities, and it would be great to get the tribes' perspectives early on.

The Nature Conservancy wants to visit each and every tribe throughout the state to host a series of two-hour listening sessions. Staff will travel to each tribe and through some grant funding, there might be an opportunity to provide an honorarium for participants. Mr. Gower said he hoped the NIC could assist with that effort.

Chair Lathouris thanked Mr. Gower for his "very informative" presentation. He said he loves the idea about meeting with each tribe where they're at. Two hours with the honorarium is showing a lot of respect and appreciation for tribal input. Another possibility that might be considered is that recently there's been a joint secretarial order between the Department of the Interior and US Department of Agriculture to try to restore lands back to tribal trust. And on some of those projects, they have been able to do it with perpetual conservation easements. So that could be another win on top of the win-win-win already discussed which is tribes being able to have their homeland put back into trust. And those projects can go to benefit tribes. So that might be another angle or benefit to consider.

Commissioner Tiger said that she was very happy to see that The Nature Conservancy had that superfund site identified as a potential alternate use. When she did research, she found that there were zero superfund sites in Nevada that had been successfully remediated. She said the one in Carson City that's

XII. Report: Smart-From-The-Start Energy Planning (*continued*)

polluted the water significantly is a good location. It would seem like that one was the farthest along in the process. She asked if Mr. Gower could talk a bit more about Superfund sites.

Mr. Gower said superfund sites are managed a little bit differently than other sites. The Anaconda Mine site outside of Yerington was formerly a superfund site, but it is no longer. Its remediation is being managed by the State of Nevada. At the Carson River Mercury site, that's where The Nature Conservancy is working with the EPA within the Carson River, Mercury site boundary on what it would look like to redevelop sites in that area for things like solar or potentially geothermal use. Now they are seeing where the potential is, that feasibility study, and then the next step is understanding what the process is. These sites are a little bit more complicated because you have to get the remediation to a certain point to be able to start development on the project.

Executive Director Montooth thanked Mr. Gower for joining the meeting and sharing this important information. She said there are 574 federally recognized Tribal Nations, and the one issue that connects each and every single one of them is Mother Earth. Tribes recognize and appreciate the work being done.

Executive Director Montooth asked if there was something specific about former mining sites that makes renewable energy especially conducive or is it something else? Are they trying to use land that otherwise couldn't be used?

Mr. Gower said the logic behind the Mining the Sun Program and using those former and active mine sites is that energy development is sited in those areas and avoids the development of green field development or undisturbed areas. The Smart From the Start approach is looking at the former mine lands that are already disturbed so they can avoid development elsewhere. There are brown field areas which have a little bit different contamination issues that would need to be addressed under associated remediation.

And there's also the existing built environment that is part of the Smart From the Start approach. This is solar on rooftops and carports in areas that are already developed, and that's a win-win because it avoids not only the development of the generation facility in undisturbed lands, but also the transmission facilities that have to move it to the demand center. The Smart From the Start umbrella is fairly broad in terms of the concepts like using the existing carbon footprint approach. It's minimizing that overall carbon footprint and also minimizing the actual land disturbance footprint as well.

Commissioner Tiger asked about concerns that development would encroach upon a sacred site, or disturb a wildlife habitat. Mr. Gower said they want to avoid the areas that the Commissioner is talking about and they want to be able to identify where those lower impact areas are and focus on those for future development. They should understand where those areas are to avoid them early on.

Chair Lathouris asked if there were any other questions, comments, or concerns about the presentation and there were none. He reminded everyone that all presentation materials were in the meeting packet.

V. Introductions of New State Employees/Partners/Appointments (*continued*)

Chair Lathouris said he wanted to acknowledge that another Tribal Chair was in attendance. He introduced Chair Amber Torres from the Walker River Paiute Nation. He said they had already been singing her praises with her appointment to the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC). He said they were very proud and appreciative of her service.

Chair Lathouris made a motion:

Motion: Take this item out of order and allow the Walker River Paiute Tribal Chair to have the floor to present on the Secretary's Advisory Tribal Committee appointment.

By: Chair Lathouris

Second: Commissioner Tiger

Vote: Motion passed by general consent

Chair Torres thanked everyone for allowing her the opportunity to talk about a few bullet points that she plans to address after being placed on the historical SATC Committee with Secretary Deb Haaland. The Chair said she was very excited to be placed in that role to be a strong voice at the table to address some of the concerns and the issues that they have had longstanding with the Department of Interior. The Chair said she is ready to take on that challenge. Nevada needs a voice, and she wants to make sure that times are changing.

Some of the things that the Chair plans to address are:

- Sacred site protocol. There needs to be a protocol when talking about consultation for sacred sites. There's got to be consent from tribal nations before these projects get started. Consultation, early and often, is going to be a definite.
- Conveyances. Conveyances on homes has been an ongoing issue. Probate has been, too, and for at least ten years there has been no probate. That must be addressed.
- Lease agreements. When BIA, their federal trustee, does not follow through with things in a timely manner, tribal nations are the ones that lose out on huge opportunities and economic development. The Chair wants to address lease agreements and opportunities for tribal nations.
- Building capacity at the different levels and the programs run underneath the DOI is very important right now. Tribal nations need to share where is the downfall and where is the disconnect, and what do they need to be successful in these different programs that are run underneath the DOI?
- Follow-up on timelines. Follow-up and intent and hard timelines need to be met. The Chair is determined to make that happen.
- Examine the 184 Program because there are some federal dollars that have come down to working on infrastructure within the tribal nations. Access is a huge issue right now and everybody's vying and trying to acquire the same services across Indian country. They need to have all the infrastructure in place, and the 184 Program that has been approved so that their people can acquire homes either on tribal lands through a bank or even off tribal lands so that they can start to get their own homes in place. The Chair wants to empower those people to be successful.
- Ordinances. Ordinances are so important to tribal nations, and when timelines are not followed at the BIA level or you don't even get a response to anything that you've turned in, that's a shame. It's

V. Introductions of New State Employees/Partners/Appointments (*continued*)

very disheartening because those are the laws of the tribal nations, and when you can't even fall back on something in writing, that's unacceptable.

Chair Torres said those are some of the things she plans to bring to the table. She hopes those issues can be addressed within the timeframe that they have and they can start looking at some fixes going forward. They will collaborate with the 11 other tribal nations and regions, and with the current administration to make good, meaningful changes going forward. The Chair said if anyone has something to address, she is open to constructive criticism just as long as you bring a solution as well.

Chair Lathouris thanked the Chair Torres for her time and dedication and for representing them so well.

Chair Torres returned those thanks and also thanked their Congressional delegation for all their support going forward. She said she thinks their efforts pushed them over the line to get a spot specifically for Nevada.

XIII. New Business (For Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Water Rights

Commissioner Emm reminded Members that at the last meeting, they came up with different directives regarding tribal water rights in Nevada. The first order of business will be to establish a committee for purposes of creating a draft position paper for the state regarding tribal water rights.

Commissioner Emm had a topic put on the Nevada Tribal Indian Summit Agenda in June asking the tribal staff and the tribal leaders how they would like to go about this process. What the group at the summit wanted to do was see if the Commission could actually send a letter or a notice out to each of the tribes in Nevada to appoint an individual of their choice to sit on a committee that would draft a position paper for the state. This will give each tribe the opportunity to participate in the water rights process from the very beginning.

Chair Lathouris said it sounded like there might be potentially multiple parts to a motion or multiple motions. The first one would be to establish that committee for purposes of creating a draft position paper for the state regarding tribal water rights. So, that is the first question. The next question is who should/would be part of the committee? How many people do they have to have in order to take any action? The Chair said he thinks they need to make sure they allow for an opportunity for everybody to appoint somebody, and then they need to also establish a cutoff period and establish what a quorum would be if it's realistic for them to be able to work on it and approve it.

Commissioner Emm said she thought they already have the approval for an organized effort. It doesn't say "committee," but it does say "organized effort" in the minutes, so she thinks that's already established. She agreed with the Chair about timelines and opportunity for tribes to participate.

Chair Lathouris asked if the Commissioners would be open to an organized effort to create a survey as the Commission and send that out to the tribal nations in Nevada and ask them for their feedback

XIII. New Business (continued)

A. Water Rights

and what specifically they would like to see in the position paper. That way the NIC can be that deciding body at the next meeting to review those comments and maybe put them together in a draft paper and then submit that to the Governor's Office for consideration.

Commissioner Emm said she is not against that at all, but it will push their timeline back by probably six to eight months. They've got to design the survey, then they've got to implement it, and then they've got to analyze results, so they are probably looking at the survey by the next meeting and then implementation and results by the meeting after that.

Chair Lathouris said he thought that was a valid concern. He has similar concerns about the committee if they have to have people submit in their nominations for the committee and then they have to approve the committee and then when will the committee actually meet. This needs to be done sooner rather than later, so if there are any ideas about how to make that happen, he would love to hear them at this time.

Commissioner Emm said since it says "organized effort" she would suggest staying away from appointing a committee and taking that route, like they have with the Indian Education Committee. She does want to give each tribe the opportunity to participate if they want to in an organized effort.

Chair Lathouris said he understood that rationale. Would the NIC ask tribes to appoint a representative to participate in discussions? Like an informal process?

Commissioner Emm said it is going back to the original meeting minutes of the directive, towards the director in that organized effort. She is not against the survey at all, but she thinks they need to start getting this session going sooner rather than later.

Chair Lathouris said he was in support of that, but he wants to make sure that they know exactly what's going to be happening so they can appoint the representatives. Would they have a meeting of the representatives? Would they meet with the Commission? If so, then they might start running into Open Meeting laws where they have to post up the notices and agendas and make sure that they're open meetings. What if, instead of a survey or the appointment of representatives, they simply just told tribes that they are creating that position paper regarding the state's position on tribal water rights? And they will allow for maybe 60 days to receive feedback and then that gives them 30 days to work internally as a Commission. The Chair said he would be happy to work on that with Commissioner Emm, and take that feedback and put it together and then draft a paper for consideration of approval at our next meeting. And so, it's like a public comment period for 60 days.

Commissioner Emm said she did not have a problem with that, but she thinks there's going to have to be some kind of document or draft to be commented on. So, they would definitely have to put out some concepts or some type of statement so they will have to have something to comment on.

XIII. New Business (continued)

A. Water Rights

Chair Lathouris said he was looking at the minutes from the last meeting, and he's wondering how specific they need to get with each part of the position paper. The general idea was that they wanted to make sure that the state was aware of and respected Federal Indian Law and Federal policies regarding tribal water rights. And with the creation of any tribal reservation that also included the amount of water necessary to carry out the purposes of that reservation, that the establishment of those tribal reservations and reserve water rights includes both service and ground water, that the surface and ground water should not be contaminated or interfered with in a way that would make the water incapable of carrying out the purpose of the reservation, and that those reservation dates predate any claim made after the establishment of the reservation, that they're senior to any subsequent water rights derived from those waters. Those were the general ideas.

Commissioner Emm said the Chair is looking at federal water right law. There is one basin in the state, the Humboldt Basin, that is a state decree. It is not a federal decree. And in addition, tribes have ground water rights which the state believes they own. The tribes believe they own those water rights. Commissioner Emm thinks they need to take a little bit of time to look at that, because that's where the state agencies come in too. In the next state legislature, there's probably going to be several bills regarding conjunctive use, (conjunctive use is ground water and surface water). So what is that going to look like?

Chair Lathouris said he would like to clarify his comment. When they talk about tribal water rights, those are federal water rights, and if there is any competing state claim to it, the argument is federal law is supreme underneath the United States Constitution to any state law. Tribal water rights are federal reserve water rights, that that's why he brought in the federal part of it. The Chair said he agreed that the state part should be consistent with that and that if tribes have federal rights, it shouldn't be undermined by state efforts. It is complicated. The Chair asked for a motion.

Motion: That the Nevada Indian Commission send out a letter or notice to tribes in the State of Nevada that the NIC is initiating an organized effort to create a position paper on tribal water rights for the State of Nevada and requesting tribal participation.

By: Commissioner Emm

Second: Chair Lathouris

Vote: Pending discussion

Chair Torres had a suggestion. Since tribal councils sometimes have limited capacity, she thought it might be prudent to have Commissioner Emm go to the next ITCN meeting and present this issue there. She could explain the details and emphasize the importance of having tribal voices heard.

Commissioner Krolicki said there has to be some type of information out there about state water rights already. There's a state water engineer in Nevada after all. Maybe they could give the tribes a head start by identifying some of the waterways that go within their reservations or close to their reservations.

XIII. New Business (continued)

A. Water Rights

Commissioner Emm said she thought that was a great idea and she invited Director Montooth to participate with her.

Chair Lathouris said it might be good to request a position paper from the state agency that would potentially have influence or impact regarding tribal water rights about what their actual position is. Then NIC can use that as the draft to comment on for each tribe. There's a chance that perhaps the state has a good position paper already on this or is able to create a position paper that tribes would agree with.

Commissioner Emm said she was sure the state engineer's office does have some type of stance that they need to identify and track down. She's fairly sure there's something that already exists. And they can attach that to their letter.

Chair Lathouris asked if there were any state agency representatives on the call or present that would like to provide any feedback or insight on this item?

Ian Carr with the Attorney General's Office disclosed that he is the litigation council for the Nevada State Engineer among other Deputy Attorneys General, and he can communicate with the State Engineer's Office to see if a position paper exists or would need to be generated in the future.

Chair Lathouris thanked Mr. Carr and then called for question on the motion.

Motion: That the Nevada Indian Commission send out a letter or notice to tribes in the State of Nevada that the NIC is initiating an organized effort to create a position paper on tribal water rights for the State of Nevada and requesting tribal participation.

By: Commissioner Emm

Second: Chair Lathouris

Vote: Passed by general consent

The Chair clarified that if there is a position paper currently, they can include that as an exhibit or attachment to their letter or notice.

XIII. New Business (For Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Food Sovereignty

Commissioner Emm said she put this item the Agenda because she thinks they need to follow up and see if they can get a presentation by USDA or see if any of the Nevada tribes are 638-ing their food pantry or food system programs as outlined in the last Farm Bill. This is more of a discussion than it is any other point, but NIC does want to make sure that if it is in the Farm Bill, that Nevada tribes know that they can take advantage of that.

XIII. New Business (continued)

Food Sovereignty

Chair Lathouris said to clarify, was Commissioner Emm requesting that their next quarterly Commission meeting include a presentation on food sovereignty by the US Department of Agriculture if they're available? Commissioner Emm said yes and that she could help the Director in finding those contacts.

The Chair said he didn't think they needed to vote or take any action on this, but he thinks it would be a great agenda item for a Commission meeting, similar to what they had today with the Census and The Nature Conservancy. The Chair would like to see a presentation from the USDA on 638 contracting opportunities for food sovereignty including food pantry and selection of foods.

Director Montooth said she would be happy to work with the Chair to make sure that they have the right people in front of their leadership. Their tribal liaison from the Nevada Department of Agriculture works closely with the USDA, and perhaps they can come up with some sort of a collaboration.

Chair Torres asked what specific food program were they talking about? There are many.

Commissioner Emm clarified that they were talking about the 638 for FDPIR that was in the last Farm Bill. She wonders if any tribes in Nevada have actually gotten that.

Chair Torres said there are some tribes that have 638-ed their commodity food program, because there are 16 tribes within Nevada right now that tailgate out of Yerington Paiute Tribe. There are a lot of requirements with that because they are trying to create food security which would house our pantry, our food sovereignty project that we started and created with our CARES funding and then 638-ing the commodity food program or the FDPIR program.

In the Native Farm Bill Coalition, they really advocated for being able to 638 the SNAP food program too. So there's a lot that they're going to start working on with USDA in looking at those policies, procedures, and the flexibility in order to self-govern.

The Chair said she was proud to say that Walker River is the first tribal nation to get the local food purchase agreement. That program has been phenomenal and demonstrates best practice.

Commissioner Emm thanked Chair Torres and said her clarification helped identify all the moving parts. If the Chair knows of some speakers for the next meeting could she share them with Director Montooth?

Chair Torres said she would be happy to share a few different names of individuals that could either talk to the NIC or start that rally to get people to join these different committees. She said the Secretary's Advisory Tribal Committee will be looking at what the capabilities and possibilities are with the FDPIR program as well as SNAP. The Committee will also be keying in on the Native Farm Bill which is coming up too.

XIII. New Business (continued)

Food Sovereignty

Marla McDade Williams, Department of Health and Human Services said that her department has two roles with food security. One is they work closely with the food banks through funding that they have from tobacco settlement dollars. Those settlement dollars are going to be transferred to the Department of Agriculture in the next legislative session because they are trying to consolidate all of the food efforts under one area. The other piece is SNAP. On the SNAP front, they need to set the parameters, put them in place, and let the dialogue begin.

XIII. New Business (For Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Native Vote Outreach

Vice-Chair Tiger said since their last meeting, there was a primary election and statewide efforts out for voter registration. There was a voter education candidate forum held in Southern Nevada by Four Directions, the Native American Rights Fund, and the National Congress of American Indian in partnership with the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Director Montooth has been working with ITCN on identifying which tribes have tribal IDs that already meet the state's requirements for same day voter registration, so that's been ongoing work contacting the tribes and getting copies of their IDs and seeing if they already meet those requirements. After that, they'll be coming up on voter registration dates for the general election. The Indian Center has additional funding to go out to tribes for the voter registration drive. The Indian Center is willing to help and will travel out the tribes and do voter registration if tribes are low in capacity with staff or members who can do voter registration. The Indian Center will have the hard copies of the voter registration forms and people who are trained to do it. If any tribes need assistance, the Indian Center is ready to help.

XIV. Old Business (For Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) Indian Education Strategic Plan Update

Chair Lathouris said at their last meeting, they heard from Principal West during the initial public comment about the need to update the Nevada American Indian Alaska Native Strategic Plan, which is referenced in the Nevada Statewide Plan for Improvement of Pupils or the STIP. It has not been updated for far too long. Executive Director Montooth followed it up by helping to organize and facilitate a meeting between her, Chair Lathouris, and Principal West where they were able to discuss the comments that were raised.

Principal West does serve on the Indian Education Advisory Committee and part of the discussion they had was that the Indian Education Advisory Committee should present a redlined draft of proposed changes to the existing strategic plan so the Commission can approve those changes at the next quarterly meeting. NIC is expecting to have a revised draft for discussion and approval at the next quarterly meeting.

Commissioner Emm asked if the Indian Education Committee was struggling with getting attendance

XIV. Old Business (continued)

A. Indian Education Advisory Committee

what happened this last quarter? The Commissioner thought they were supposed to have a plan for approval at this meeting. Was there some miscommunication or what?

Chair Lathouris said Principal West had been in communication with them about needing some additional time to create the redline revisions. The Chair asked if there was anybody from the Indian Education Advisory Committee present today who could give them a status report on the Indian Education Advisory Committee actions?

Executive Director Montooth stated in the last meeting, leadership voted to make that strategic plan a priority for not just the Nevada Indian Commission, but for the Indian Education Advisory Committee. The Director organized a meeting with Principal Lance West of the Schorr Elementary School to get more information. Principal West was concerned that the Indian Education Plan would impact the STIP which is not the case at all. Principal West agreed to redline the current plan that needs to be updated. Last week, Principal West contacted the Nevada Indian Commission to say he needed more time to get that redline done.

The Executive Director has been in touch with both the Chair of the Indian Education Advisory Committee, Fawn Hunter, and Fredina Drye-Romero, their liaison from the Department of Education about this matter.

Commissioner Emm said she thinks the NIC needs the Nevada Indian Education Committee to give them an update at the next meeting. expanding line item on the Agenda and give them an update.

Chair Lathouris said he wanted to make a motion.

Motion: That there be a standing agenda item for any standing committee to give a report at each Commission meeting.

By: Chair Lathouris

Second: Commissioner Krolicki

Vote: Passed by general consent

XIV. Old Business (For Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA)

Commissioner Krolicki provided a brief history of SISPA, the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance. SISPA was founded in 2015, and its primary objective at that time was to support any type of improvements to any of the buildings on the Stewart site. SISPA is actually a 501(c)(3), a nonprofit entity, and it has struggled in order to keep any type of board intact. Commissioner Krolicki wrote 20 personal emails and letters to try to solicit some new board members, and that was a successful effort. They now have a committee of five board members with one remaining "at large" open position. The committee revised their bylaws and modified their mission statement to make it broader. The broadening of the mission statement means SISPA can apply for more types of grants and grant funding.

XIV. Old Business (continued) **Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance**

Now they will be able to support other aspects of Stewart and especially the Cultural Center.

Chair Lathouris said he previously served on SISPA, and he knows how hard it can be to recruit. He congratulated Commissioner Krolicki for recruiting five people. That's a big accomplishment.

XV. Agenda Items for Future Meetings (For Discussion and Possible Action)

The Chair and Commissioners came up with several agenda items for their next meeting:

- A presentation report on food sovereignty to include 638 contracts, SNAP, Nevada Department of Agriculture, USDA and other DHHS services.
- Review and approval of draft AB 264 policy.
- Standing items for any standing committee to do a report to the Commission, but specifically they want to include review and approval of the draft Nevada American Indian Alaska Native Strategic Plan.
- Plans for 2023 Nevada Native Legislation Day
- What bills to support in 2023
- Plan for two presentation topics: *Understanding the Nevada Legislative Process* and *What New Laws Do our Tribal Communities Need?*
- Follow up on the tribal water rights position paper

Executive Director Montooth said she arranged for organizations to do presentations at the October meeting: the Nevada Transportation Sustainable Funding Work Group and the Silver State Exchange.

Chair Lathouris said that would mean that they're looking at three potential presentations at the October meeting, Silver State Exchange, Nevada Transportation Sustainable Funding Working Group, as well as the presentation on food sovereignty. So, if approved, they are looking at three presentations and then two substantive document review and approvals in addition to their regular course of business. The Chair asked for feedback.

XV. Agenda Items for Future Meetings (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Commissioner Emm said she thinks they are looking at a day-long meeting.

Commissioner Krolicki asked if they could try to do this meeting in person? And could they travel somewhere?

Executive Director Montooth said her office reached out and there are a couple of tribal nations that are interested in hosting the NIC meetings. She reminded Members that the last time they talked about a meeting on tribal lands, they also talked about a special session, maybe even the day before, just to network and talk with the tribal communities about their priorities. She said the agency is prepared and willing to make that happen.

XV. Agenda Items for Future Meetings (continued)

There was a brief discussion about the merits of different dates and Chair Lathouris said they should plan to have their October meeting on October 24th, and potentially a working meeting on the 23rd which will be a good opportunity to review the policy and the documents.

XVI. Reminder and Planning for Future Nevada Indian Commission Meetings

The Chair said future NIC meetings will be:

Monday, October 24 – 9:30 am

Monday, January 30 – 9:30 am

Monday, April 23 – 9:30 am

Monday, July 24 – 9:30 am

The Chair said are looking at having a workshop date on Sunday, October 23rd regarding AB 264 writing policy and maybe that might be the date that they will be able to do the *Understanding the Nevada Legislative Process* or *What New Laws Do our Tribal Communities Need?*

Other important dates include:

Remembrance Run 2022

Runners leave Yerington Paiute Reservation - Saturday, August 13 at 5 a.m.

Runners arrive at Stewart Indian School - Sunday, August 14 at 3 p.m.

Samantha Williams, Author Talk and Book Signing

Assimilation, Resilience, and Survival at Stewart Indian School 1890-2020

September 9 at 3-5 p.m.

Closing; Inheritance: Basketry and Art of the Great Basin

Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum

Friday, September 30 at 5 p.m.

NIC Commissioners' Quarterly Meeting

Monday, October 24 at 9:30 a.m.

Nevada General Election

Early Voting, Saturday, October 22 through Friday, November 4

Nevada Day Parade

Saturday, October 29

Native American Heritage Month

November

XVI. Reminder and Planning for Future Nevada Indian Commission Meetings (continued)

Nevada General Election Day

Tuesday, November 8

Stewart Indian School Exhibit

Reno Tahoe Airport, Departures Art Gallery Concourse C,
Tuesday, November 22, 2022-Monday, January 23, 2023

Nevada Tribes Legislative Day

Carson City, Nevada

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

41st Annual Protecting Our Children Conference

Indian Child Welfare Association

Sunday, April 2–5, 2023 — Reno, Nevada

XVII. Final Public Comment

There were no final public comments.

XVIII. Adjournment

Chair Lathouris thanked everyone for their participation and for being so engaged and said the meeting was adjourned.

Updated 2:09