

**Nevada Indian Commission
Meeting Minutes
Stewart Indian School
5366 Snyder Avenue, Building #3
Reno NV 89701**

**Monday April 22, 2024
9:30 AM**

Commissioners Present:

Brian Wadsworth, Chair
Staci Emm, Vice Chair
Kelly Krolicki, Commissioner
Tammi Tiger, Commissioner
Arlie Stops, Commissioner

Nevada Indian Commission Staff Present

Stacey Montooth, Executive Director
Chris Gibbons, Museum Curator
Sarina Nez, Program Officer

Presenters

Tahlia Bear, Indigenous Peoples Engagement Manager
Sydney Welter, Energy Markets Policy Advisor
Cal Boone, Tribal Outreach Coordinator, Secretary of State's Office

Attendees

Daryl Crawford, Tribal Elder
Rose Mary Hanson, Tribal Elder
Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Cliff Banuelos, Tribal-State Environmental Liaison, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
Fredina Drye-Romero, Indian Education Programs, Nevada Dept. of Education
Donald Lovejoy, DCNR – Division of Forestry
Morgan Biaselli, Silver State Government Relations
Kellie Karasek, AA3, Secretary of State's Office, UNLV – NV Afterschool Network NV
Kadie Zeller, Certified Prevention Specialist, Institute for Children's Research & Policy
Nikhil Narkhede, DCNR – Division of Forestry
Melyssa Dolan, USDA
Sequoyah Pollard, Indigenous Relations Coordinator, Office of Indigenous Relations, UNR
John Ocegüera, Executive Vice President, Strategies 360

Tribal Liaisons Present

Godwin Nwando, Tribal Liaison, DHHS
Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles, Tribal Liaison, DHHS
Christine Jones Brady, Tribal Liaison, Office of the Attorney General
Vanessa Justice, Tribal Liaison, DHHS
Patricia Olmstead, Tribal Liaison, Dept. of Taxation
Monica Schiffer, Tribal Liaison, DHHS
Sabrina Hagan Finks, Tribal Liaison, Secretary of State's Office
Autumn Blattman, Washoe County
Devon Pickles, Tribal Liaison, DHHS – Director’s Office
Guinevere Hobdy, Tribal Liaison, Department of Transportation
Zachary Shaw, Tribal Liaison, Department of Transportation
Christina Boyles, Tribal Liaison, DHHS – Public & Behavioral Health
Mitch DeValliere, Tribal Liaison, DHHS – Public & Behavioral Health
Wilfred Lewis, Tribal Liaison, ADMR – State Public Works Division
Lori Lutu, Tribal Liaison, DHHS – Aging & Disability
Miles Terrasas, Tribal Liaison, DHHS – Aging & Disability
Josh Marhevka, Tribal Liaison, DETR

The meeting was convened by Chairman Brian Wadsworth and a quorum was established. Daryl Crawford provided the invocation, and the land acknowledgment was given by the Chairman.

Participants introduced themselves. There were 41 people in attendance.

There was one initial public comment from Clifford Banuelos highlighting upcoming BLM and Forest Service workshops.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

The meeting minutes from the NIC Quarterly Meeting on January 29, 2024 were approved with no changes.

Motion: Approve NIC Meeting Minutes from 1/29/2024

By: Commissioner Emm

Second: Commissioner Krolicki

Vote: Approved by acclamation

Executive Director Report:

Executive Director Montooth presented the report. There were no questions from the floor.

Motion: Approve Executive Director’s Quarterly Report as presented

By: Commissioner Krolicki

Second: Commissioner Emm

Vote: Approved by acclamation

Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum Director's Report:

Chris Gibbons, Curator at the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum reported on the following:

- They are very close to hiring their Education Curator.
- The Museum has been approved for two NEH grants.
- Classes have started in the classroom.
- Stewart Indian School Trail is being refreshed with new signage.
- Additional ARPA funds have been approved to renovate the bakery and the post office as new collection storage.
- There are two CIP projects that the State is putting forth for Stewart's auditorium and gym.

Motion: Approve Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum Director's Report as presented

By: Commissioner Krolicki

Second: Commissioner Tiger

Vote: Approved by acclamation

Stewart Father's Day Powwow Report:

Program Officer Sarina Nez reported that plans for this year's Powwow, Friday, June 14th through June 16th are well underway. There will be schedule changes to ensure alumni have exclusive time together. They are still looking for a host hotel.

Motion: Approve Stewart Father's Day Powwow Report as presented

By: Commissioner Emm

Second: Commissioner Krolicki

Vote: Approved by acclamation

American Rescue Program Act Subgrants Report:

Management Analyst Janet Davis reported that 28 out of 28 tribes have submitted applications for the subgrants. They obligated \$19,525,245 and the remaining unobligated amount of \$474,755 they hope the State will obligate to NSHE.

Motion: Approve the American Rescue Program Act Subgrant Report as presented

By: Commissioner Emm

Second: Commissioner Krolicki

Vote: Approved by acclamation

Indian Education Advisory Committee Report:

NDE Education Programs Professional Fredina Drye-Romero reported a successful Indian Education Summit in March. The group met to discuss next steps based on information received with the tribes at the summit. The IAC is gearing up to write their next strategic plan. That process provides an opportunity for community leaders and educators to collaborate around a shared vision and purpose and produce a dynamic plan reflective of various stakeholder needs. They have decided to meet in person over the summer to continue the work and outline their plan.

Motion: Approve the Indian Education Advisory Committee Report as presented
By: Commissioner Krolicki
Second: Commissioner Stops
Vote: Approved by acclamation

Civic Engagement Advisory Task Force Committee Report:

Commissioner Tammi Tiger reported that three tribal representatives spoke to the Legislative Operations Committee about new election legislation and the new EASE system now in place. The first official task force meeting is next week. They are looking at a partnership with the National Congress of American Indians, the Secretary of State and the Nevada Indian Commission on how they can coordinate on outreach over the election season.

Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA) Report:

Commissioner Krolicki reported SISPA updated/expanded their mission statement because more grants will be available to them by doing so.

Executive Director Montooth said the plan is to be able to use SISPA in a way to expand services to enhance the Stewart campus. She explained the reasoning why the State didn't accept recent grant applications and said they will keep an eye out for future opportunities.

New Business: Letters of Support/Recommendation

Executive Director Montooth explained the various requests for letters of support the NIC receives. There are letters for schools, jobs, fellowships and scholarships. Another category is letters of support for different organizations who are applying for grants. The Director wants some direction about what it is that leadership feels comfortable empowering her to do. How much latitude can she take? There was a discussion about the importance of transparency, getting all information out to the tribes, and controversial issues like mining.

Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott explained how the NIC is unique in many ways. He suggested they have one Commissioner partner up with the Executive Director to determine whether issues should be brought to the Commission. This would not have to be in the NAC. He explained the distinction between Director Montooth acting as herself and as a member of the NIC or as the Executive Director.

Motion: NIC Chair can work with NIC Executive Director to determine NIC's position on letters of support

By: Commissioner Emm
Second: Commissioner Krolicki
Vote: Approved by acclamation

Old Business:

A) Position Paper on Water Rights

Commissioner Emm gave an overview of some of the complicated aspects of tribal water rights, including groundwater/surface water rights, infrastructure, water quality, and livestock wells. She said before the position paper is written, it's important to create a framework for discussion with tribal leaders in order to guide the process to best serve the tribes. It was originally brought up to have a position in a working relationship with the Governor's office and the state departments on opportunities that are available to tribes and working with the state on specific issues. Once all the resources have been gathered and after meeting with the tribal leaders, they should have a clear idea of what positions they support.

B) Presentation/Salutation

Chairperson Wadsworth announced that he was not reappointed to the Nevada Indian Commission by Governor Lombardo. He expressed thanks to Commissioners and the Executive Director for their tireless efforts on behalf of tribes and said he looked forward to working with them in the future.

Director Montooth expressed her thanks and appreciation and presented Chair Wadsworth with original Shoshone beaded piece of art to commemorate his service.

Presentations:

A) Update on Wholesale Energy Markets and How They are Changing the Western Power Grid

Tahlia Bear and Sydney Welter with Western Resource Advocates gave an overview of wholesale energy markets and why they are important and how they are changing and shaping the West. Utilities across the West are creating new grid regionalization governance structures and transmission planning decision-making processes that will have impacts across the West. They shared Nevada specific information and some of the potential impacts that may take place across the West with tribes.

WRA has been building relationships with tribes throughout their region. They recognize that tribes have been left out of a lot of conservation policymaking at the state and federal level. WRA is working to change that so all can work together under shared interests, goals, and needs. They also have been doing energy market research around tribal energy infrastructure and wholesale energy markets with about 10 tribal utilities in the Southwest.

WRA is engaged in forums at the regional level and at the state level as well. They will be a sustained point of contact for NIC as these changes occur throughout the West. Tribes are very unique, and so the impacts may be unique as well.

B) Nevada Secretary of State Briefing

Cal Boone, Tribal Outreach Coordinator for the Secretary of State's Office reported on:

- Presidential preference primary
- Tribal polling locations
- EASE, the Effective Absentee System For Elections
- Goals moving forward

Mr. Boone provided many specifics and examples of how his office is reaching out and engaging with tribes across the state to ensure that their voting rights are upheld and accessible. He agreed to share his detailed maps and spread sheets and also agreed to attend the next Commission meeting to demonstrate the EASE system in person.

C) Federal Communication Commission's Proposed Rule Making for the Missing Endangered Persons Event Code

Brian Wadsworth from Native Public Media did a presentation on the Federal Communications Commission's proposed rulemaking for the Missing Endangered Persons Event Code. More indigenous people go missing and unfound than other groups. Reporting is complicated and event protocol is not always standardized. Out of the 567 federally recognized tribes, only 12 have the ability to exercise their sovereignty and be able to issue alert codes if there were an emergency within their respective territories.

On April 18th, the FCC posted the proposed rule to the Federal Register and the public comment period runs from April 18th to June 17th of 2024. The FCC does want to initiate tribal consultations so they have directed ONAP to coordinate government-to-government consultation with tribal nations. It's very important for tribes to be able to exercise their sovereignty and really provide that watch within their community and be able to issue alert codes. So, it's very important that tribes not only comment on this important rulemaking, but also start looking at becoming their own alerting authorities.

Future Quarterly Meetings:

Monday, August 19, 2024 – 9:30 am

Monday, December 16, 2024 – 9:30 am

Future Agenda Items:

Suggestions for future agenda items included an update on the tribal water rights position paper, a presentation from a tribe, and an update from Mr. Boone and with the Civil Engagement Committee Task Force.

Final Public Comments:

Clifford Banuelos reminded everyone to save the date for the planned Nevada Tribal Mining Summit to take place on the Elko Indian Colony in September or October. The focus will be on the science and laws of mining, and there will be a forum. Participants will be federal and state regulatory agencies, mining companies, non-profits, and the tribes. They haven't secured a final date yet.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by a motion from Commissioner Tiger.

Motion: Adjourn Nevada Indian Commission 4/22/2024 Meeting

By: Commissioner Tiger

Second: Commissioner Stops

Vote: Approved by acclamation