

Nevada Department of Native American Affairs

Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 16, 2025

2:00 PM

Meeting Location:

Nevada Department of Native American Affairs

5366 Snyder Avenue

Building #3

Carson City NV 89701

Commissioners

Staci Emm, Chair

Tammi Tiger, Vice Chair

Andrea Martinez

Dr. Art Martinez

Dr. Arlie Stops

Department of Native American Affairs

Stacey Montooth, Executive Director

Joshua Bonde, SISCCM Director

Sarina Nez, Program Officer

Lori Arrive, Office Manager

Lawanda Jones, Opioid Preventions Specialist

John McCauley, Management Analyst

Janet Davis, Management Analyst

Attendees

Brian Wacker, Nevada State Public Works Division

Cal Boone, Tribal Liaison, Secretary of State's Office

Jason Molino, Tribal Liaison, Public Health Infrastructure and Improvement, Nevada Department of Health & Human Services

John Ocegueda, Strategies 360, Chief Strategy Officer

Mike Padeken, Native American Math Educator

Lance West, Principal, Schurz Elementary School

Raymond Gonzales, Housing Director, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

Shari Davis, Tribal Liaison, Governor's Office of Economic Development

Todd Weiss, Nevada Senior Deputy Attorney General (acting DAG)

Vanessa Justice, Tribal Liaison, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Nevada Department of Health & Human Services

Cliff Banuelos, Tribal Liaison, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada

Rayelle Sims, University of Nevada

Nahavee Flores Rosiles, Tribal Liaison, Nevada Department of Health & Human Services

I. Convene meeting, roll call, and establish quorum

Chair Emm called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm. Director Montooth conducted a roll call and quorum was established.

II. Invocation

Dr. Martinez provided invocation

III. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Chair Emm welcomed everyone and provided a land acknowledgement

IV. Introductions of Meeting Participants

Meeting participants introduced themselves

V. Public Comments

Cliff Banuelos reminded everyone about the ITCN Convention from July 13th to July 17th at the Atlantis Casino and Hotel in Reno.

Mike Padeken, a member of the Sho-Pai Nation of Duck Valley, described his math facts teaching strategies work at Schurz Elementary School and offered this help to others.

VI. Approval of April 20, 2025 Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve April 20, 2025 Commission Meeting Minutes
By: Dr. Martinez
Second: Dr. Stops
Vote: Motion passed unanimously

VII. Commissioners Oral Reports

Commissioner Tiger has been traveling throughout Nevada and beyond developing a program that helps create future leaders in the gaming and hospitality industry. They are building partnerships with the nearby Tribal colleges so students can easily transfer into UNLV. The UNLV Powwow for the Planet raised over \$8,000 towards a new scholarship endowment. Commissioner Tiger took part in Advanced Native Political Leadership and held a Native civic leaders relationship building session as she is a Native Organizers Alliance trainer.

Dr. Stops has been teaching senior English to Hispanic, Black, and Native American students. He continues to encourage these students to attend college. He attended the CCSD Native American graduation, which was “eye-opening.” He has been reaching out to other educators to introduce himself as a Commissioner. He went to a Nevada Legislative meeting for the first time and provided testimony.

Commissioner Martinez navigated the Nevada Legislature testifying on bills in opposition and in support. She attended some Four Tribes Alliance meetings for protection of the Bodie Hills. She attended the Walker River Council meeting last week and they had an update from the BLM. She attended the Stewart Father's Day Powwow and provided the land acknowledgment. She is serving as the operations manager on the Walker River Paiute Economic Development Authority.

Dr. Martinez has been active culturally in several areas throughout the state. He was the arena director for the UNLV Powwow and for the Stewart Father's Day Powwow. He will also be arena director for several other powwows within Nevada as well as moderating for several Native presentations. He has been involved with launching programs for waivers to pay for traditional health service within the Indian Health Service (IHS). He has been doing work with the National Opioid Response Network in developing strategies for Tribal communities all over the country.

Commissioner Emm has been continuing her work with Tribal food and agriculture, including Tribal food sovereignty projects. There is a brand-new program getting ready to kick off which is a cultural harvesting program. She is also busy attending meetings and learning all she can about how solar projects and technology impact agriculture and Tribes.

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

Executive Director Montooth highlighted two items from her report:

- The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition staff visit to Nevada and the Stewart campus was amazing. Native archivists recorded elder stories that will eventually be archived at the National Library of Congress. Elders had portrait photos taken, classes were held at the Nevada Museum of Art, and much food was eaten. During the campus visit, staff toured the Cultural Center, and the final stop was at the Dat-So-La-Lee Cemetery.
- Office of Science, Innovation & Technology grant for wi-fi infrastructure for 16 Tribes has been frozen.

Motion: Approve Executive Director's Report
By: Vice Chair Tiger
Second: Commissioner Martinez
Vote: Motion passed unanimously

VIII. Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum Director's Report – Dr. Joshua Bonde (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Dr. Bonde reported they implemented some new technologies at the front door to the Center, so they are now able to track attendance. He also updated Commissioners on a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant meant to scan documents into the SISCCM system, but funds have been frozen.

Motion: Approve Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum Director's Report
By: Commissioner Martinez
Second: Dr. Martinez
Vote: Motion passed unanimously

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

Program Officer Nez gave a brief wrap-up of the Powwow:

- Biggest Powwow in years
- There were over 50 vendors
- Big thank you to the Department of Corrections trustee staff for trash removal

Motion: Approve Stewart Father's Day Powwow Report
By: Commissioner Martinez
Second: Dr. Stops
Vote: Motion passed unanimously

XI. American Rescue Program Act Subgrants Report – Management Analyst, Janet Davis (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Management Analyst Davis went over Tribe expenditures to date. For the most part Tribes are on target. There was a discussion about deadlines and budget modifications, obligated funds, and Tribe outreach.

Motion: Approve American Rescue Program Act Subgrants Report
By: Commissioner Martinez
Second: Dr. Martinez
Vote: Motion passed unanimously

XII. Legislative Session Wrap Up Report (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Strategies 360 Chief Strategy Officer, John Ocegueda provided an overview of several bills: SB97 was a Tribal seat on the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange. SB 312 was the establishment of the Tribal Health Authority Council with a presumptive eligibility for Medicaid. Assembly Bill 150 was a measure to protect Tribal judges and court personnel. Assembly Bill 144 was to establish the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day which failed. The Native Fee Waiver law has not changed. Vice Chair Tiger and Commissioner Martinez emphasized the importance of continued Tribal involvement in the Nevada Legislative process in the future.

XIII. What is the purpose of a strategic plan? (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Dr. Bonde set the stage for the strategic planning process. The plan is informed by the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). The plan must have measurable outcomes.

- NRS 233A defines the Nevada Department of Native American Affairs

- Department can appoint advisory committees if necessary to advise the Department.
- Department has the legal authority to negotiate and contract with other agencies, public or private, to carry out the duties of the Department
- Department can cooperate with and secure cooperation with state, county, city, and other Tribal entities
- Every strategic plan is a living document meaning it will change and evolve
- Within the law is the creation and continuation of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum
- DNAA mission statement must state what the Department is going to do. It has to be what the Department does day-to-day. Mission is not outlined in NRS.
- DNAA vision statement will pertain to goals.

XIV. What is the purpose of this strategic planning meeting? (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Dr. Bonde explained the purpose of their upcoming strategic planning meeting would be to establish a plan pursuant to NRS233A. The Commissioners will conduct a PESTEL analysis that breaks down opportunities and threats based on politics, economics, climate, economics. The Commissioners were excited to develop a strategic plan for a new branch of government. Dr. Bonde asked the group to think about what directions that the DNAA can affect measurable change to increase the quality of life for the Native American communities within the NRS.

XV. Future Agenda Items

Chair Emm said that their strategic planning day might give rise to future agenda items. In addition to those items that might come up, she suggested adding an agenda item updates from Tribal Leaders and a follow-up from Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott on the Nevada System of Higher Education's Tribal liaison appointment.

XVI. Final Public Comment

Vice Chair Tiger said the Guinn Center's study on the Nevada Native American Fee Waiver is still ongoing and a plan will be completed by the end of the year.

Cal Boone, Tribal Outreach Coordinator for Secretary of State's Office said Senate Bill 421 passed this session. SB 421 mandates that County Clerks have to provide poll workers at Tribal polling locations unless the Tribe says otherwise. They also have to provide poll worker training, either virtually or in person on reservations

XVII. Adjournment

Motion:	Adjourn June 16, 2025, DNAA Commissioners Meeting
By:	Commissioner Martinez
Second:	Dr. Martinez
Vote:	Motion passed unanimously at 4:35 pm