

Nevada Indian Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 29, 2021
9:30 AM
Meeting Location: Virtual via Zoom

Commissioners Present:

Kostan Lathouris -- Chair
Brian Wadsworth -- Vice Chair
Kelly Krolicki -- Commissioner
Staci Emm – Commissioner
Tammi Tiger -- Commissioner

Staff Present:

Stacey Montooth – Executive Director
Bobbi Rahder – Museum Director Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum

Others Present:

Steve Aichroth, Tribal Liaison for Administrator of the Nevada Housing Division & Tribal Liaison
Scott Anderson, Nevada Chief Deputy Secretary of State and Tribal Liaison
Cliff Banuelos, Tribal Liaison for Lands and Conservation, ITCN representative, & Te-Moak member
Josie Burnett, Nevada Division of Emergency Management Tribal Health Preparedness Coordinator
Fredina Drye-Romero, Nevada Department of Education, Programs Professional for Indian Education
David Fogerson, Nevada Emergency Manager and Homeland Security Chief
Crystal Harjo, FEMA R9 Nevada Tribal Liaison/Integration Team
Brandie Harry, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Executive Assistant
Carolyn Harry, Pyramid Lake Paiute member, Educator
Guinevere Hobdy, Nevada Department of Transportation Asst. Chief Multimodal Planning
Fawn Hunter, Indian Education Committee, Washoe County School District
Fran Maldonado, Tribal Liaison for Nevada Division of Child & Family Services - Adoption Specialist
Chris Morgan, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology at UNR
Kailey Musso, Tribal Liaison for Nevada Department of Wildlife
Melyssa Navis, Tribal Relations Specialist for Forest Service Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Greg Ott, Nevada Deputy Attorney General
Rulon Pete, Executive Director, Las Vegas Indian Center
Monica Schiffer, Nevada Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, IHS Policy Specialist
Jennifer Taylor, Nevada Deputy Director for the Governor's Office of Energy & Tribal Liaison
Briza Virgen, Tribal Liaison for Nevada Division of Healthcare, Finance, & Policy
Wes Williams Jr., Law Offices of Wes Williams Jr., P.C., & Walker River Paiute Tribe
Mark Wlaschin, Nevada Deputy Secretary of State for Elections

I. Convene meeting, roll call, and establish quorum

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

II. Invocation

Elder Elizabeth Lana Hicks, a member of the Washoe Tribe and a descendent of Pyramid Lake, provided the invocation.

III. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Lathouris welcomed the participants to the virtual meeting and then initiated the introductions for the Commissioners and others in attendance who wished to be introduced.

IV. Initial Public Comment

Melyssa Navis, Tribal Liaison for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest had two items to share:

- 1) There is new leadership for the Bi-State Tribal Natural Resource Committee. The new Chair is Janice Mendoza with the Bridgeport Indian Colony, and the new Vice-Chair is Angela Williams-Eddy with Mono Lake.
- 2) The Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Summit was a huge success thanks in part to the support and hard work from the Nevada Indian Commission. Governor Sisolak issued a Certificate of Recognition for the event.

Clifford Banuelos, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada reported that ITCN is coordinating with a few partners on grants through the CRG, the EDA Program, and also the Nevada CRG Program. ITCN intends on applying for funding for those programs. Updates will be forthcoming.

V. Approval of October 4, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Commissioner Emm found a missing "A" in the word "ARPA" in Section VI of the 10/4/21 Minutes.

Motion: Approve October 4, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes with one correction

By: Commissioner Krolicki

Second: Commissioner Emm

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Emm asked if there was an update on the administrative positions detailed in the 10/4 Minutes. Director Montooth reported that with the assistance of Fredina Dyre-Romero, Nevada Department of Education, and Fawn Douglas, Washoe

County School District, and the Indian Education Advisory Committee, they did conduct initial interviews. Those interviews were “very promising” and they think that they will have someone in the admin position by the end of the January.

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

Director Montooth said the Executive Director’s Report had been made available to the public more than three days in advance of the meeting, so she didn’t think she needed to give a summary. And in order to facilitate the meeting, she said she would be happy to answer any questions about her report.

Commissioner Emm asked about a request from the Walker River Tribal Chairman, Amber Torres, about more media campaigns or promotional campaigns around COVID. Has there been any type of movement to get that going or any discussions? Director Montooth replied that members should have received their specially-designed COVID prevention t-shirts in their Board packets. The production of the T shirt is part of that specific campaign that will distribute T-shirts across the state, including the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada. The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, the Churchill County Coalition has done a really great job getting those T-shirts out at two COVID events at the colony. There was also “tele-townhall” that was held earlier with hundreds of participants and an all-Native panel from the celebrity emcee to the physician to the behavioral health experts. The Nevada Indian Commission and partners will continue to post on all their social media platforms about all of the advantages of getting vaccinated, the availability of the vaccines, and even how to properly wear a mask. Partners are meeting weekly and the group has expanded to include another division of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, public health team.

Commissioner Emm had another question on the ARPA Fund. Have there been any decisions on the ARPA funds that went to the state that they were allocating? And if so, have any of those funds gone to fund tribal projects in the state or that process? Director Montooth said that this is ongoing. She doesn’t think any of the funding has been completely identified for respective Nevada divisions, departments, or agencies. She said she would check with the Governor’s office and report back.

Chair Lathouris said he would like to open for discussion, the section of the report dealing with the land acknowledgement. This was discussed at the October meeting. Lance West requested that the NIC start including a land acknowledgement during meetings, and also that they encourage and recommend to state agencies that they also include land acknowledgements when they are dealing with tribes or working on indigenous land.

The Chair thanked the Executive Director for getting land acknowledgement draft language together. He said if the language was acceptable to the rest of the Commission, he thought they should start each meeting by reading it. The Chair read the proposed passage and said if it was something that the Commission endorsed, he would recommend that they send it to all the tribes to see if there’s any feedback from them about whether it is appropriate or whether or not it needs to be revised in any way. He was not recommending that they approve this and use it right now, but that they approve it for circulation and review.

Commissioner Krolicki asked if there was any organized effort on when somebody would use a land acknowledgement to encourage people? Is there a discussion about that, to make it more broad? Chair Lathouris responded that his understanding is this is part of that discussion. The request wasn't just for the Nevada Indian Commission to have its own land acknowledgement, but that all state agencies also have a land acknowledgement.

Commissioner Krolicki asked when would you use the land acknowledgement? The Chair said that is something that he would like to also have a discussion about. What are best practices for land acknowledgements? Should the different state agencies use specific land acknowledgements when they're on specific lands or dealing with specific tribes? Given that this has been distributed and posted publicly, they should consider approving the land acknowledgement for each subsequent Commission meeting and also make sure that there's an ongoing discussion for the next agenda about what the protocol for land acknowledgement is. Maybe NIC should request feedback from the tribes at this time about what they feel is the best protocol for land acknowledgment, when, how, and who should be giving the land acknowledgment.

Commissioner Emm said she totally agreed with having the land acknowledgement and getting feedback from Nevada tribes on how they would like to see the land acknowledgement used. The NIC should be assisting state agencies when they're doing business in developing or just making sure that there is a land acknowledgement. As part of state agencies, it's something that maybe they need to get used to, or set a simple protocol that's a respectful protocol in recognizing where you're doing business.

Chair Lathouris agreed and said he would like to make a motion.

Motion: Adopt the proposed land acknowledgement as a standing agenda item for all future Nevada Indian Commission meetings

By: Chair Lathouris

Second: Commissioner Krolicki

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

Chair Lathouris said that since this motion passed, the land acknowledgement will be a standing agenda item at the beginning of each meeting for all future meetings. As for the discussions about protocol, perhaps that is something to address through AB264, the policy, including a land acknowledgement consideration for that, and then also asking the tribes themselves what land acknowledgement would they like to see. Ideally they can have a resource available for land acknowledgements with all tribes, so that way it would be easier for the state agencies to know exactly what is expected and what has been approved already.

Chair Lathouris said he would like to make another motion:

Motion: Approve the Executive Report as presented

By: Chair Lathouris

Second: Commissioner Tiger

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

VII. Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum Report – Bobbi Rahder (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director for the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum said that her report had been posted and she was available for questions or concerns. There were none.

Motion: Approve the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum Report as presented

By: Chair Lathouris

Second: Commissioner Krolicki

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

VIII. New Business (For Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Ceremonial swearing in for new, reappointed Commissioners

Executive Director Montooth explained that anyone who is part of a state board, commission, or committee is required to take an oath of office and have it notarized. All of the NIC commissions have done that officially, but today, the commissioners had an opportunity to reiterate their commitments in a ceremonial swearing in ceremony.

Presiding over this ceremony was Wes Williams Jr., General Counsel for the Walker River Paiute Tribe and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. Tammi Tiger, Kelly Krolicki, and Kostan Lathouris were ceremonially sworn in.

B. Briefing Regarding the NAGPRA Actions by UNR

Christopher Morgan, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Nevada, Reno briefed members about the NAGPRA actions by University of Nevada. He had four items to present:

Item #1: UNR is currently searching for a director of the Community and Indigenous Relations and the NAGPRA liaison and project manager. Applications are being reviewed. These searches should be completed at the end of January or perhaps early February.

Professor Morgan explained the Community and Indigenous Relations position is part of a broader university and an NSHE effort, Nevada System of Higher Education, effort to actively engage rather than passively engage, with tribal communities, incorporate tribal perspectives and university research efforts, education efforts, engaging tribes in actively being a part of the university community.

The Director of Community Indigenous Relations is there at a presidential level. That person will answer directly to President Sandoval as the overseer of multiple and diverse means of engaging with tribal communities.

B. Briefing Regarding the NAGPRA Actions by UNR (continued)

Item #1 (continued) The NAGPRA liaison and project manager position is a permanent position that is more specifically targeted towards addressing compliance with the Native American Graves, Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990.

The chair and the director of the Community Indigenous Relations position is Danielle Enrique Perez. He a College of Liberal Arts Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion,

The Chair of the NAGPRA Liaison position is Debra Harry. She's an associate professor in the Gender, Race, and Identity Department.

Many universities and museums are either in questionable compliance or out of compliance with NAGPRA, and this is a full-time effort at UNR to get not only anthropology, but the entire university 100 percent in compliance with the Native American Graves and Protection and Repatriation Act.

Item #2: As it specifically relates to NAGPRA, an outside consultant, Cogstone Consultants, has been brought on board. Cogstone is a native-owned cultural resources management consulting firm, and they're assisting UNR with compliance with NAGPRA until the NAGPRA coordinator can be hired full-time at UNR.

UNR has made progress in regards to NAGPRA compliance. Letters and information about ancestral remains and funerary belongings as well as unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony that may be culturally affiliated with specific tribes have been sent to the respective tribal chairs with information about how to contact them for pursuing the next steps. UNR has been contacted by a number of tribal chairs about some of the cases, and consultation is ongoing with those tribal chairs.

Item #3: UNR has completed the template for a website that will provide information about NAGPRA and other essential information about processes, resources, inventories, contacts, and other updated information relating to consultation and repatriation under NAGPRA. Modeled after the University of California, Davis, and the University of California, Los Angeles sites, UNR's website is scheduled to launch shortly.

Item #4: UNR is completing review of all units on campus regarding whether they have ancestral remains or other NAGPRA eligible items in their control. Dean Deborah Modellmog is compiling a database of all the potentially NAGPRA eligible items that department chairs have identified through their faculty and students. Data will be made available to the new NAGPRA liaison and project manager and the Director of Community Indigenous Relations as soon as the database is completed and vetted.

Professor Morgan asked if there were any questions or comments, and there were.

B. Briefing Regarding the NAGPRA Actions by UNR (continued)

Commissioner Tiger asked if this work was solely through UNR? Was it an NSHE effort? Does UNLV has any similar program? Professor Morgan replied that this was 100% UNR, spearheaded by President Sandoval and his office, as well as the College of Liberal Arts and the department of Anthropology.

Director Montooth and Chair Lathouris both said that they should explore work being carried out at UNLV.

Director Montooth provided some background. A little over a year ago, a former University of Nevada student spoke out during public comments at a Nevada Indian Commission meeting. Melissa Wieselboy [phonetic], a citizen of the Yomba Tribal Nation came to the NIC because she had concerns about the inventories that the University of Nevada had in their possession. After being directed by the Commissioners, the Nevada Indian Commission connected with the University of Nevada, and the University's response was extremely quick and most importantly, extremely authentic. The President of the University has met with tribal leaders twice in person, and the University, in addition to creating these two positions and starting the inventory, the University created a small task force that meets weekly. Director Montooth said she believes that the University of Nevada is going to set a standard nationwide.

Chair Lathouris echoed the sentiment from the Executive Director. He said this really did come about from a public comment made at a Nevada Indian Commission meeting, and it's leading to great results. There are a lot of wrongs that have happened, but that does not necessarily mean that there are bad actors. A lot of times it's just people aren't aware or there's misunderstandings, and so this being brought to the attention of other people, the Nevada Indian Commission has been able to do what it was created to do, which is act as a liaison between the states and the tribes.

C. Briefing Regarding FEMA/DEM Jurisdiction for Tribal Nations Stretching into California

David Fogerson, Nevada's Emergency Manager and Homeland Security Chief gave the briefing for Item C.

Chief Fogerson said emergency management works in a philosophy that everything is tribally executed or locally executed, state-guided and Federally supported. The tribes have emergency managers and public health people that work with them, and then work back with the Division of Emergency Management or work direct with FEMA. Tribes can either go to the state or they can go directly to FEMA, and the tribes are also able to pick which state if they are a border state.

At the state level, there is a 13-member Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council which meets quarterly to talk about disaster and emergency and public health

preparedness incidences. And that NTEC process is an offshoot from a prior tribal nation emergency council that was formed previously and has just been refined through the years.

C. Briefing Regarding FEMA/DEM Jurisdiction for Tribal Nations Stretching into California (continued)

There are two liaisons between the state and tribal nations. One is paid for by the Division of Emergency Management and the other one is also housed within the Division of Emergency Management, but it's paid for by the State Health Division through Public Health Preparedness money. A couple of years ago, they asked FEMA for a tribal liaison to work directly with the states and to be embedded in the Emergency Operation Center. That position was filled in October. So, they have three staff members either at FEMA or within the division that work on this. They work across borders very easily and operate on a "request system" based on tribal needs.

Crystal Harjo, the new Nevada Tribal Liaison to Region 9 as well as the FEMA immigration team member, gave members more information. She said the team has worked with several tribes that have crossed borders. She said their #1 mission is to work with the tribes. Nevada is one of 18 or 19 states that have integration team members and there are two embedded in Nevada now. They are at the Division of Emergency Management on a regular basis. The emphasis on that is to help with technical support and planning. That's a similar position as the Emergency Management Coordinator for NTEC, so with three inhouse in Carson, they have a really good team. They are fortunate that all of the tribal positions are actual tribal people who understand their communities and want to help with anything that they can.

Ms. Harjo will be the point of contact for FEMA Region 9. There will be four traveling liaisons for FEMA Region 9 which will be most welcome in the event of multiple events such as pandemics, wildfires, and other incidents happening concurrently. The team is ready to work on fixing any areas of confusion or miscommunication experienced last summer and they are detailing "lessons learned" moving forward.

Chief Fogerson spoke to this miscommunication specific to the Tamarack Fire or the Caldor Fire. The FEMA individual might have had an issue with the COVID versus the other disasters. The DEM staff from NTEC was in direct communication with their tribal emergency manager, so the issue came down to one person that might not have understood how to help. So going forward, they are going to work on that to make sure that the FEMA FITs and the NTEC staff all know how to share information for whoever needs the help and whoever is closest to get that help.

Commissioner Emm said she welcomed Crystal Harjo to a very-needed position. She said she is very excited that now FEMA is not having individuals handle different things. Commissioner Emm asked if they could be proactive and have memorandum of understandings in place with the tribes and the services? Because right now, tribes do not have the capacity to do all of the plans required for emergency management. They need to start being more proactive in getting formal agreements. Since the NIC is supposed to assist with the quality of life on reservations, they need to start making sure that everybody is moving in the directions that they're supposed to be when one of these events hits.

Within the Nevada Tribal Coordinating Council, is there a process where each of the 19 tribes has the opportunity to select, through a formal process, their representative for that?

C. Briefing Regarding FEMA/DEM Jurisdiction for Tribal Nations Stretching into California (continued)

Chief Fogerson explained that the MOU process for disaster has to be a declaration by its law. The declaration is a simple one-page document that needs to be completed before tribes can go to ask for the state declaration. The Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council has 13 tribes that are represented on that committee. If there's a tribe that's not represented on NTEC and would like to be represented on NTEC, all that's needed is a letter from tribal leadership. It's all about coordination. Emergency management is never in charge; they just coordinate.

Commissioner Emm said an emergency declaration is being reactive. Is there anything proactive that's in place? Is that what NTEC deals with? Chief Fogerson said that's what NTEC deals with, and it's also in the NRS 414 that it would come up through emergency management that way from the local governments, from the tribal nations to the state. And so having an MOU about it is kind of redundant in a way. When they built NTEC, one of the items in that law allows the Attorney General's office to enter into agreements. The other part is NTEC and the Division of Emergency Management also run the Nevada State Master Mutual Aid Plan, and that's under NRS 414A where tribal nations can opt into a mutual aid provider and be covered by some reimbursement clauses and some of those other issues. There are four or five tribes that are part of this now. They want tribal nations to be part of the state mutual aid plan and be eligible for some reimbursement on the larger disasters.

Commissioner Tiger asked how many tribal nations have an emergency manager? Ms. Harjo explained for the NTEC, for the board, it's usually designated by the tribal chairman. One of the priorities for the NTEC staff is to engage the tribes to opt into the intrastate mutual aid system. Another priority is to get out and start some of the planning efforts with the tribes. It's a work in progress.

Commissioner Tiger asked does the state help to fund these emergency management positions and the planning, or is it only if the tribes opt in they can be reimbursed? How does the funding and the training for these positions happen? Chief Fogerson said they do provide some funding for some of the tribes. Some of the larger tribes do get money that the state passes through to them from FEMA, and it's from the Emergency Management Performance Grant.

Chief Fogerson closed by saying they've had NTEC and ITERC for a number of years, so this is just another way that they can get some more outreach and talk to folks about how they can help each other. Emergency management is all about relationships and having the right people to know the right person to call and then coming out and working with you on those processes as well

Chair Lathouris thanked Chief Fogerson and Ms. Harjo for their detailed reports and moved on to the next agenda item.

C. Briefing Regarding Nevada Travel

Vice-Chairman Brian Wadsworth, who sits on the Nevada Commission of Tourism as the representative for the NIC, gave a brief update. At the last Nevada Commission of Tourism meeting, they approved rural marketing grant recommendations, and there were two rural grants that were approved for the Nevada Indian Territory. One was for the Nevada Indian Territory, and one was for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. Vice-Chairman Wadsworth said he hopes more tribes will apply for grants when it comes to tourism.

Vice-Chairman Wadsworth was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors for the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association Board of Directors, representing the Great Basin region which includes all of Nevada. The Vice-Chair hopes to broaden outreach to tribes in providing training and resources for all the tribal nations in Nevada regarding tourism. If the Commission has any issues or concerns they would like to bring forward regarding tourism, the Vice-Chair said he would be more than happy to assist in any way possible.

D. Briefing Regarding Upcoming Elections

Mark Wlaschin, Deputy Secretary of State for Elections, presented three items regarding elections.

Item #1: Implementation of recent election laws

The 2021 Legislative Session resulted in the passage of approximately ten election related bills. Assembly Bill 121 has resulted in allowing voters with a disability to use the same automated system used by military and overseas citizens, a system called EASE, which stands for the Effective Absentee System for Elections. The passage of Assembly Bill 321 is the bill that established Nevada as a vote by mail state. What that means is now for every election going forward, voters will receive a mail-in ballot in the mail. In-person voting is still available. Another specific change in Assembly Bill 321 is that now a tribal nation is able to request the ballot drop box, a polling place, or both. Timelines have changed in regards to that request for a polling place or drop box or both.

There's provision in the bill talking about how the County Clerk is not required to establish a temporary branch polling place within the boundaries of an Indian reservation or Indian colony. The County Clerk determined it is not logistically feasible to establish a temporary branch polling place within the boundaries of an Indian reservation or Indian colony.

Item #2: Secretary's efforts regarding voter outreach to the tribal nations

Secretary Barbra Cegavske identified a need for sweeping voter outreach following the 2020 election cycle. They have a draft letter to finalize and send to all 27 tribal councils requesting an opportunity to speak about everything from the two election bills highlighted

in Item #1 as well as other changes in election laws, election security. Voter outreach is something that is not a one and done. There are continuing attempts to establish an ongoing dialogue in this area.

C. Briefing Regarding Upcoming Elections (continued)

Item #3: Ongoing efforts to prepare for the upcoming and future election cycles

The Secretary's Office continues to work to improve upon Nevada's electoral process. They recently received notification from the Department of Justice regarding Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, specifically relating to Nye County's Census results. Nye County is now subject to the bilingual election requirement of Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act with respect to American Indians, specifically the Shoshone. There are a significant number of voting age citizens with limited English proficiency within the reservation's boundaries who require information and assistance in their primary language to participate effectively in the political process. The Office is exploring options to make sure those voters' needs are met going forward.

There's a significant amount of turnover with county election officials and this is a concern. The Secretary's Office wants to codify and capture and solidify relationships between tribes and election officials. They want to sustain the improvements that have been identified and developed. They want to support tribal communities and make sure that the tribal voters' needs are supported and recognized.

Chair Lathouris asked about the use of Tribal ID enrollment cards to be used during future State of Nevada elections. How are Tribal IDs handled for election purposes? Mr. Wlaschin said Tribal IDs are able to be used for identification purposes, but not necessarily for any online transactions. There have been some discussions about what can be done to accommodate Tribal IDs for use in online registration, but the lack of a singular ID database is one of the obstacles that they have to try to figure out how to overcome.

Mr. Banuelos said the ITCN would be open to hosting or facilitating a meeting regarding the use of Tribal IDs for elections.

Director Montooth asked which counties don't have a Registrar right now? Mr. Wlaschin replied those counties are Douglas, Lander, Lincoln, and Mineral.

Director Montooth asked about the Duckwater Nation. Could Mr. Wlaschin clarify that Yomba also falls within Nye County? If they are including election materials in Shoshone for the Duckwater Nation, would that extend to Yomba as well? Mr. Wlaschin said yes.

Commissioner Emm asked if this information was available easily on a website or online? Mr. Wlaschin replied yes, the Office of Secretary of State does have a website that has information available on it.

Commissioner Tiger said they were looking at how to update the request form in time for the tribes to get it to make the requests in advance and the Las Vegas Indian Center was

instrumental in including that ballot drop box language. They thought having the ballot drop box option for early voting was very important, and the ballot harvesting provisions were eliminated to make this easier.

C. Briefing Regarding Upcoming Elections (continued)

Mr. Wlaschin explained there are some locations across the state that are a little more challenging to get to the ballot drop box. There are some requirements about if you do collect ballots in certain locations, in an official drop box location, there are deadlines that have to be turned in. If you have a deadline, there's a certain number of days that you're allowed to possess somebody else's ballot according to the statutes now.

Commissioner Emm said one of the regulations that passed was implementing a top-down system which would streamline all of the election processes across the state through all of the counties. Mr. Wlaschin said the transition from a bottom-up to a top-down system is a multi-year project they've been extremely hard at work on. The first phase in the project is an assessment. A company called Gardner started this assessment back in September and they'll be completing their assessment of the state by mid-January.

This first stage is really to gather requirements, assess the processes used across the 17 counties in the state and to understand both the operational and technical requirements of transitioning to a top-down system, and then to ultimately culminate in the recommendation to the Secretary as to what kind of what is the path going forward.

They might be going to using a series of RFIs, looking at different vendors, trying to understand the different tools and opportunities available to help them develop a process to submit so that they can either start working on it immediately using the available funds from the Help America Vote Act or HAVA Grant, or possibly going to a 2023 Legislative Session with a solution that's been identified and possibly a cost associated with it.

D. Strategic Planning for 2022

Chair Lathouris opened a discussion about what Members hoped to accomplish as the Nevada Indian Commission in the upcoming year. Initial items included:

- Outreach to tribes. The NIC mission is driven by the tribes and the state agencies that the NIC works with, and this should continue.
- Bringing events back like the Pow Wow and the Awards Dinner
- Helping build bridges between state tribal liaison officers and the tribes
- Holding meetings in different parts of the state to allow different people to attend the meetings in person
- Revisit tribal needs survey
- Building up institutional capacity and promoting awareness and education throughout the state. And that can be in the form of technical assistance.
- Stewart Indian School Master Plan
- Investigate legislation that could address land management issues with BLM and other Federal land management agencies.
- Improve consultation that falls underneath AB 264 and finalize policy and start having the trainings underneath that policy. What is done with that policy should be the result of consultation with tribes and state agencies.

- Supporting education efforts including requiring educators to take class on native communities.
- Help influence positive legislation and being more involved in the BDR process.
- Adopt OMB standards regarding gathering of data.

IX. Unfinished Business (For Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) Approval of By-Laws

Fawn Hunter presented a proposed amendment for the IEAC by-laws and asked if Members had any input. Suggestions were proposed. There was a question about the wording for voting and non-voting members and also about how quorum was determined. It was suggested that wording be changed to reflect that membership is all inclusive. Additionally, it was suggested that language be changed to reflect that if two-thirds of the voting members vote on the amendment, then they could submit that to the Nevada Indian Commission for final approval, and it would be final upon the Nevada Indian Commission approval.

Ms. Hunter said their group could use these suggestions and refine the language and have the document completed by the next NIC meeting on January 24th.

Chair Lathouris said this item would be tabled until the January meeting where it could be placed under unfinished business.

B. Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA) Update

Commissioner Krolicki said that in November, the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance solicited potential new board members for SISPA. They are going to have a meeting in January, and they will be sitting a new board. They are going to move forward with some type of mission and strategic plan for the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance.

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

Chair Lathouris opened a dialogue about future agenda items. Items included those already discussed during the strategic planning discussion and additionally:

- Commission is familiarized on the BDR process
- State agencies to explain how tribes could utilize certain initiatives or services that they provide.
- Set NIC working schedule
- Update of the impacts of the tuition fee waiver at each NSHE institution
- Protocol for land acknowledgements
- Nevada Tribes display at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport

Director Montooth said she could send commissioners a list of all the things that the Chair has outlined for future agenda items, including the protocol for land acknowledgements. Then items could be prioritized. Chair Lathouris said he would leave it to the Executive Director's discretion, since she's exercised that discretion so well during her term in office

to decide what is actually able to be done and what can potentially be held back at a later date.

XI. Reminder of future Nevada Indian Commission Meetings

The NIC meeting dates for 2022 will be:

Monday January 24
Monday April 25
Monday July 25
Monday October 24

XII. Final Public Comment

Scott Anderson thanked Members for allowing his office to participate and for allowing Deputy Wlaschin to do some updates on the election issues.

Commissioner Tiger announced there is a nationwide survey called The Indigenous Future Survey 2.0. It's being led by Native Organizers Alliance. It collects all of the perspectives and concerns on indigenous issues and it's online through January 31st, 2022. The survey that was completed last year helped to inform policymaking at the federal level. She encouraged all to participate.

Director Montooth expressed her sadness of the passing of Senator Harry Reid. She said his service to the Great Basin Tribal Nations, the state, and the nation should be acknowledged and held dear. Everyone concurred.

Director Montooth said after the Stewart Indian School meeting in December, Governor Sisolak wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Interior relaying thoughts and concerns. They will be having follow-up meetings through the Nevada Indian Commission, as was explained during that meeting with the Governor. It's a complex situation, as the campus has been divided after its closure in 1980. Half of the land is now legally under the jurisdiction of the Washoe Nation and that includes the cemetery that was associated with the school for 90-some odd years. The Governor made it absolutely clear that any action that the state takes will be driven by what the tribal nations want. The Secretary of Interior will report to the tribal nations in early April.

XIII. Adjournment

Chair Lathouris thanked everyone for their participation and hard work and made a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Adjourn the December 29th NIC Meeting

By: Chair Lathouris
Second: Commissioner Krolicki
Vote: Motion passed unanimously