State Tribal Economic Development Commission

Meeting

February 1, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Shawn Real Bird (Chairperson) Gerald Gray, Richard Sangrey, Shelly Fyant, Jason Smith, Ken Fichtler, Doug Mitchell

Staff Present:

Casey Winn Lozar, Margaret Cook, Heather Sobrepena-George, Philip Belangie

Guests Presenters:
Michael LaValle, Mariah Gladstone, Jordan Thompson, Heather Cahoon

Legislators Present: Sharon Stewart-Peregoy; Lea Whitford (afternoon session)

Roll call and quorum established.

Invocation: Richard Sangrey, Rocky Boy Chippewa Cree Tribe

Welcome/Purpose of Gathering:

Meeting started at 9:30 AM Welcome by Chairperson – Shawn Real Bird, Crow Tribe. Introduction of new members to the Commission; Carl Kipp, Blackfeet Tribe and Harold Malebear from Crow Tribe.

Chairman Real Bird also brought forward introduction of guests including Michael LaValle from Senator Tester's office, Mariah Gladstone, Assistant to Jason Smith, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, Jordan Thompson, lobbyist for CSKT, and Heather Cahoon, Montana Budget and Policy Center.

Opening Remarks: Chairman Real Bird reminded the STED Commission of the goals to "help people help themselves," focused on the development of the legal infrastructure, initiatives for financing and support for codes for tribal small business entities. He also commended the Department of Commerce on the model developed for successfully working with tribes.

Commissioner Richard Sangrey reported on the need to access the research report that highlighted the Tribal economic contributions to the economy of the State of Montana. The report will be located and sent to all the Commissioners.

Commissioner Fyant reported that the CSKT College did a local study on what economic impact the Salish Kootenai College has made. Heather Cahoon reported that several of the tribal colleges have economic impacts on their websites.

Approval of August Minutes and October Conference Call Minutes Actions Thereon:
Motion: ***Gerald Gray motioned to accept the August 2016 Minutes and the October 2016 Conference call meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Jason Smith. Motion passes unanimously.***

Indian Country Program Reports: Casey Lozar reported on the Indian Country Programs growth in the last 8 years and as a ICP team continues growing with meetings twice a month on hot topics that relate to economic growth in Indian Country. Casey provided resources that could be useful for tribes, first the Federal Reserve Bank which has recently launched research projects that are directed at economic develop in Indian Country. Their research project mainly target housing in Indian Country. The second resource availability is the State of Montana Department of Commerce database The Department promotes transparency in their database which is open to the public. The database can be found on the Directors database link of the list page of the DOC website http://dochlnhelp/doprojects/. Casey then reported on the upcoming conferences that will be of interest to the STED Commission including RES, Las Vegas, March 13-16, 2017; National Indian Gaming Conference, San Diego, CA, April 10-13, 2017; NAFOA's 35th Annual Conference at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square, April 23-25, 2017. Finally, Casey thanked the STED Commission for the conference call of October 1, 2016 to review and approve the Tribal Handbook that was prepared for the current Legislative Session. Pictures that were taken during the Governor's tour of ICED grants and MILP grants were completed and mailed out this week.

STED Commission: Margaret Cook reported that the Strategic Plan is still on the agenda for the STED Commission, we are focusing some time to plan for a retreat at the Kwaqtuknuk Resort. The last Strategic Plan has reached its stated goals and it is time to rethink the future goals and plans of the STED Commission. We are planning a quarterly STED Commission meeting for May, 2017 and will plan for a strategic planning session at that time. The STED Commission is increasingly busy as the tribes become more involved in economic development, therefore the strategic plan is an important task ahead of us. Margaret also reported that more work is being done for the STED Commission website and MILP website, as we put more information on the site, redesign it and make it more interactive.

MILP: Margaret Cook reported progress on the closeout of the 2015 biennial Language Program. One of the most successful deliverable of the all the programs are the internet language apps. The apps are receiving significant attention with reported more than 1,000 downloads from Fort Peck, and 500 downloads of the android app for Salish Language. The program deliverables included many different products including art work, calendars, children's books, adult and children language lessons to name a few. Language summits have proven to be most important for development of the Language programs. The need for networking and sharing issues and successes are very important to Tribal language staff. Presently we are waiting to hear if there will be MILP funding for next biennial. Rotunda Day for MILP will be held on March 7thand we are expecting most of the tribes to participate.

Chairman Real Bird spoke of the development of the Hawaiian language and it impact on the economy. The impact of the culture and language on the Hawaiian economy has been significant and we should look at doing similar development of language and culture in the Montana economy.

Heather Sobrepena-George reported on her trip to Hawaii for the Tourism Conference and shared the approach that Hawaiians bring attention to the "Aloha Spirit." Heather reported that she will bring this information to the Governor's Conference on Montana and do a session on "Big Island to Big Sky."

Doug Mitchell commented that language and economic development is more than you think. The Made in Montana and Native Made in Montana or Montana Grown works for Montana.

Indian Equity Fund: Philip Belangie reported on the Indian Business grants that we have a total of $320,000 so far this year with 27 recipients. Philip reported that the NABA's have been doing well and the Department is committed to increase program funds and certify staff as professional business advisors. Processes changed for applications to a software program "Submittable" rather than paper, which has resulted in our ability to process applications better and clients like it. Philip just completed a five-year review of each person/business receiving funds in the last five years and we had a 90% response and Philip reported that 90% are still in business. Finally, we are more actively looking at tourism businesses, as well as the language program as part of what we can provide to a tourist or traveler. We have Tribal tour operators and seven Tribal artisans committed to attending the North Dakota Tourism Industry conference in April to meet international customers.

Governor's Tour to Indian Country: Commissioner Richard Sangrey reported that the response in his Community to the Governor's Tour was very important and made people happy, the crowd was good and included many young people. Hopefully it will stimulate more small business applications and get more development located on the Reservation rather than those living in Havre. We would like businesses locate on the Reservation.

Tribal Tourism: Commissioner Real Bird reported that in Wyoming all little towns are tourist town, Montana needs to take some steps to make all the towns in Montana to be a tourism town. We need to start moving in that direction including Indian towns.

Heather Sobrepena-George announced the Made in Montana Trade Show taking place March 10-11, 2017, with three spots reserved for Native American producers. Heather encouraged any tribal business that might be interested in participating and wholesaling their products. Heather also updated the Commission on the Governor's Conference on Tourism, meeting with tribal tour operators to be more involved and participating more meaningful in the State tourism and tour operator's industry. Will be attending International Roundup with tour operators in North Dakota to gain more international clients.

Indian Equity Fund: Heather reviewed all the Indian Equity Grant recipients with the STED Commission. Heather also reviewed the Tribal Business Planning grants that resulted in assessments for business development, particularly in Rocky Boy Chippewa Cree. This information is so handy to have meaningful conversations with projects that could. Using database could look at the businesses in the past to share with Executive and legislative branches to know what is happening in your communities.

There was a short discussion on barriers for tribal businesses, particularly the outfitting and hunting licensing procedures. It was recommended that State and Tribal governments need to recognize each other requirements and honoring each other's laws. Chairman Real Bird requested that the paperwork for the States outfitting license be provided to the STED Commission as we work to breaking down barriers

SSBCI Indian Equity Fund: SSBCI match funds have about $486,000 being forwarded to the STED Commission. Heather reported that she has completed a proposal to contract back out to tribal governments in two phase. 1.) Tribes will get SSBCI funds back, we will contract back out to Tribal Governments and other matching funds will also contract out to tribal governments. For Tribes using funds for small business development, the assigned department/agency could use Submittable online application system, using our account. Goal to help people managing funds and make it easier for them. Tribes will administer and report back to STED Commission.

Another pot of funds from fees and remaining 2% of the SSBCI match funds could provide for potential projects that the SSBCI agrees upon for Tribal Youth small business apprenticeship program. Administrative fees and remaining 2% will come to STED Commission and could reprogram into Youth. We have designed a Youth Small business apprenticeship program. Splitting these funds equally to each tribe for Youth Small Business apprenticeship program for summer months by matching with participation from small businesses. It was suggested that the Youth program be named through a contest to include name and logo.

Motion: Richard Sangrey Moved that the STED Commission use the SSBCI allocation for the establishment of an Indian Equity Fund and that the remaining 2% and administrative fees be applied to a Youth Small Business Apprenticeship Program. Shelly Fyant seconded motion. Unanimous approval.

It was noted that approval from the SSBCI Board must be obtained prior to formalizing program.

Motion: Shelly Fyant moved that the staff develop a press release with specifics for youth. Ken Fichtler seconded motion. Unanimous approval.

Legislative Update:
Sharon Stewart-Peregoy gave a legislative update from the Montana Indian Legislative Caucus. Sharon also reported that the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council would like to have the STED Commission members to attend next meeting in May 2017.

Senator Lea Whitford also brought her concern of creating legislation to develop a 7th Tourism Region in Montana and devote it to Indian Country. She reported that she is still working on language and would like any comments from tribal members.

Adjourn

***Motion**: A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Sangrey and seconded by Commissioner Fyant to adjourn the meeting. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passes.*

February 2, 2017

Conference Call Motion: ***Motion was made by Shelly Fyant: At a minimum of once a year, the STED Commission will post grant information and outcomes of grant recipients for the Department of Commerce's Indian Country Economic Development program on the STED Commission website. Information may include: leveraged funds, jobs created/retained, entrepreneurs assisted, sales revenue, use of funds and whether a business is still in existence. Motion was seconded by Gerald Gray. All in favor.***