

State Tribal Economic Development Commission

June 20, 2018

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes



Commissioners Present:

Shawn Real Bird (Chair), Richard Sangrey (Vice-Chair), Len Two Teeth, Lonnie Headdress, Ken Fichtler and Jason Smith

Staff Present:

Heather Sobrepena, Carla Lott and Billie LeDeau

Roll call and quorum established.

Welcome/Purpose of Gathering:

Meeting started at 9:35 am. Welcome and invocation by Vice-Chair Richard Sangrey, Rocky Boy Chippewa Cree Tribe. Shawn Real Bird provided an overview of the STEDC agenda.

Non-agenda items comments:

Jason Smith, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs Director, highlighted the Governor Bullock's tribal leaders summit where he visited each tribal nation. Controversial issues were addressed such as the Keystone Pipeline and Bison. Jason indicated that allocation and formulas in revenue sharing agreements will be reassessed and the agreements will be extended another ten years prior to the Governor's departure. The Governor's Office also initiated an Indian Affairs cabinet which consists of a designee of each state agency who will work with the Indian Affairs director on tribal issues.

Commissioner Two Teeth expressed appreciation for Governor Bullock's visit to the Flathead. He was able to secure funding for nine good paying jobs in Elmo at aquatic and invasion species inspections sites. Len informed the Commission that the new resort in Big Arm is nearing completion and wants to work with the Commission to promote all the tribal business tourism efforts across Indian Country.

Approval of March 28, 2018 Minutes Actions Thereon:

Motion: Jason Smith motioned to accept the March 28, 2018 minutes as presented.

Seconded by: Commissioner Richard Sangrey. Motion passes unanimously.

OICED PROGRAM REPORTS

Heather Sobrepena reported on the OICED guideline proposed changes.

Indian Equity Fund 2019:

The Indian Equity Fund Grant Program will be open for applications on July 1st and close on September 28th. This year we have \$320,000 in funding with projected funding of \$40,000 per each community. The maximum amount of each grant is \$14,000. We anticipate approximately 90 applications with funding for approximately 24 grantees.

There are two significant changes to the program this year. The first change is recommended changes to the guideline and application and the second change is introducing materials to support a business involved with tribal tourism.

New guidelines request that applicants be very explicit in four areas:

- The use of the Indian Equity Grant funds;
- An inventory of the business assets;
- A cash flow narrative of the business showing utilizing of the Indian Equity Fund Grant funds; and
- A written narrative that describes the project.

New additional guidelines section for Indian Equity Fund on tribal tourism and Native American Made in Montana:

- **National Guidelines: Indigenous Cultural Experiences** (produced by the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada):
<https://indigenoustourism.ca/corporate/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/ITAC-Indigenous-Cultural-Experiences-Guide-web.pdf>
- **Visitmt.com** website tourism-related business listing opportunity:
<https://www.visitmt.com/places-to-go/indian-country.html>
- **Review Linking Communities, Tourism & Conservation: A Tourism Assessment Process:**
https://www2.gwu.edu/~iits/Sustainable_Tourism_Online_Learning/Gutierrez/Tourism_Assessment_Process_Manual.pdf
- **Native American Made in Montana:** online at
<https://app.mt.gov/madeinmontana/BusinessType/Create?ReturnUrl=%2fmadeinmontana%2businesstype%2fcreate> or by registering with a fillable form
http://madeinmontanausa.com/Portals/184/shared/Current_New_Member_Signup%203-27-17%20fillable.pdf

Motion to approve the proposed OICED guideline changes:

Motion: Commissioner Richard Sangrey motioned to accept the new guideline changes.

Seconded by: Commissioner Lonnie Headdress. *Motion passes unanimously.*

Native American Business Advisors (NABAs) 2019

NABA application period is June to July 2018. A teleconference is planned in July to discuss the new capacity building opportunities and application changes for the Indian Equity Fund.

Native American Collateral Support Loan 2019

Currently there are no new applications in review. There continues to be interest by lenders on behalf of loan clients.

Montana Indian Language Program

Billie LeDeau reported that all language program contracts have been executed including the Crow contract. The Crow Education Department will share their funding with the Crow Language Consortium to expand and enhance their Crow Language online dictionary at crowlanguage.org. The Crow Education department will focus on Crow Lullabies recordings and curriculum.

Each contract received their initial drawdown payment earlier this year. The 1st MILP reporting deadline was April 30. After receipt of their 1st progress report, grantees have until June 30 to submit their mid-drawdown request of \$13,750 for June FY 2018. Mid-term reports are due July 1. After receipt of their mid-term report, grantees can request \$31,000 in July FY 2019.

The 2019 OICED/MILP Rotunda day is scheduled for February 15, 2019 during the Legislative Session. The MILP Language Summit is tentatively scheduled for the day before Rotunda Day.

Jason Smith informed the Commission that the Lt. Governor met with Native Teaching Aides regarding a pilot project with the Salish and Blackfeet to teach their students their native language through flash cards, games, etc. Jason would like to invite Native Teaching Aides to attend a future STED Commission meeting to discuss the support of the Commission to build a pilot language program to decrease youth suicide. The estimated cost of the pilot project is \$130,000.

2018 Biennium STEDC report to the Montana Legislature

Heather Sobrepena presented the draft 2018 Biennium STEDC report to the Montana Legislature. The report is requested by the Montana Legislature every two years and showcases the Office of Indian Country Economic Development many successful programs. The report is a cumulative report of the Commission's work in Indian Country over the last biennium.

Performance Audit by the Montana Legislative Audit Division

Heather Sobrepena reported that the OICED programs may come under a performance audit by the Montana Legislative Audit Division. There are currently 28 Indian Equity Fund grantees, 8 Tribal Business Planning Grants, 8 Native American Business Advisors grants and 9 Montana Indian Language Program grants.

Commissioner Real Bird offered the support of the Commission to be present when the performance audit is conducted to explain the positive impacts, successes as well as barriers in Indian Country.

Heather introduced the STED Commission member job description which is crucial for the performance audit. Heather proposed adopting the description.

Discussion:

Commissioner Sangrey would like the title changed from Job Description to Position Description. Chair Real Bird would like Roles and Responsibilities added. Heather proposed the title of STED Commission Member Roles and Responsibilities.

Motion to approve the STED Commission member job description and change the title to STED Commission Member Roles and Responsibilities:

Motion: Jason Smith motioned to accept the new title.

Seconded by: Commissioner Len Two Teeth. Motion passes unanimously.

Budget Priorities

Heather Sobrepena presented an overview of the GW Cultural Training Certification program and encouraged the Commission to participate in the training. Heather indicated there will be 1-2 spots available to a Commission member to attend the AIANTA American Indian Tourism Conference in Albuquerque, NM in September.

Wayfinding and Dual Language Signs in Indian Country

Carla presented a draft letter from the Commission to Senator Tester addressing the lack of signage directing motorists to basic services and local area; gas stations, lodging, hospitals/clinics, fire departments, airports, tribal colleges and tribal government headquarters. In addition, requesting to work collaboratively with the State of Montana to develop and place native language signs on roadways within, or immediately adjacent to the boundaries of the seven reservations of Montana. Native language signs are particularly important as they relate to the identification of culturally significant landmarks through their traditional place names.

Accept the Wayfinding and Dual Language Signs in Indian Country letter to Senator Jon Tester with a CC: to Transportation Director Mike Tooley:

Motion: Commissioner Richard Sangrey motioned to accept the letter.

Seconded by: Ken Fitchler. Motion passes unanimously.

Tribal Tourism

Carla Lott informed the Commission of her recent travels to Indian Country to gain the support of the tribal councils on the new Indian Country Guidebook and to conduct local research to understand what tribal communities see as culturally appropriate and what can or should be prioritized to share with prospective visitors in the new guidebook. The new Indian Country Guidebook will be presented at the next STED Commission meeting.

The next STED Commission meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2018 in Helena.

Adjourn:

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Sangrey.

Seconded by: Jason Smith to adjourn the meeting. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passes.