State Tribal Economic Development Commission
October 1, 2017
DRAFT
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:
Richard Sangrey (Vice-Chair), Shelly Fyant, Len Twoteeth, Lonnie Headdress, Gerald Gray, Joe Fox Jr., Ken Fichtler and Jason Smith

Staff Present:
Casey Winn Lozar, Sean Decker, Heather Sobrepena-George, Philip Belangie and Billie LeDeau

Invited Guests/Presenters:
Jan Stoddard, Jennifer Pelej, Liz Ching, Major Robinson, Senator Lea Whitford, Mary Walks Over Ice, Gisele Little Wolf, Dax Schieffer and Gerald Gray Sr.

Roll call and quorum established.

Invocation by Joe Fox Jr., Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Welcome/Purpose of Gathering:
Meeting started at 1:15 pm Welcome by Vice-Chair Richard Sangrey, Rocky Boy Chippewa Cree Tribe. Casey Winn Lozar provided an overview of the STEDC agenda.

Approval of May 9, 2017 Minutes Actions Thereon:
Motion: Lonnie Headdress motioned to accept the May 9, 2017 minutes as presented. Seconded by: Gerald Gray. Motion passes unanimously.

Overview of State Tourism Marketing:
Jennifer Pelej, Chief of Marketing for the Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development for the Department of Commerce presented a PowerPoint presentation on State Tourism Marketing strategies.

Jason Smith encouraged STED Commission members to write letters to the Federal Transportation Commission if they are interested in signage similar to the Salish and Kootenai language place name signs on the Flathead Reservation on Highway 93.

Overview of the MOTBD Industry Services Outreach:
Jan Stoddard, Industry Services & Outreach for the Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development for the Department of Commerce presented a PowerPoint presentation on the tourism partners, grants, Made in Montana and other strategy/outreach efforts.

OICED STED and MILP Reports: Heather Sobrepena-George reported on the Office of Indian Country Economic Development Programs. Introduction of re-appointed STED members.

Provided a summary to STED Commissioners on MILP applications submitted by their respective tribes. Heather expressed interest in working with teachers to make MILP deliverables more accessible through Department of Commerce's website.

NACS, NABA and IEF: Philip Belangie provided an update on the Native American Collateral Support, Native American Business Advisors (NABA) and Indian Equity Fund grants.

FED and the Center for Indian Country Development: Major Robinson, Assistant Vice President, Brand Executive and Advisor to the Fed's Center for Indian Country Development introduced himself and offered to host a future STED Commission meeting at the Helena Branch with a catered lunch and tour. Major reported on the Fed's Indian Country development initiatives across the federal reserve system and their partnerships with other national and regional organizations.

STEDC Budget Update: Heather Sobrepena-George reported that all agencies have submitted 10% budget reduction proposals to the Governor's Office for consideration. Rather than having 4 in-person meetings per year, staff have proposed having 3 in person meetings and 1 or more teleconference meetings. The Office of Indian Country Economic Development (OICED) program budget includes both House Bill 2 general fund and special revenue funds which will help to minimize impact to grant programs, except for Montana Indian Language Program (MILP) which specifically had identified revenue-triggered reductions in Senate Bill 261.

NEW BUSINESS

Senate Bill 309 Indian Country Region Discussion:

Sen. Lea Whitford reported on her trip to the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) Conference, September 17-20, 2017 in Albuquerque, NM.

Sen. Whitford provided an overview of legislation she sponsored in the 2017 Legislative Session, SB 309 "Revise economic development laws related to Indian country, tourism." She discussed several publications that have not been updated including the Seven Lodges, Reservation Economic Fliers and tribal tourism brochures. She discussed the need to update outdated and buried tribal tourism webpages on the VisitMT website.

Adjourn

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Jason Smith.
Seconded by: Commissioner Joe Fox Jr. to adjourn the meeting. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passes.

All meeting attendees were invited to stay for a pizza social hour.

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