

State Tribal Economic Development Commission

September 25, 2018

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes



Commissioners Present:

Shawn Real Bird (Chair), Richard Sangrey (Vice-Chair), Shelly Fyant, Brandi King, Delina Cuts The Rope, Lonnie Headdress, Clancy Sivertsen, Jason Smith

Staff Present:

Sean Becker, Casey Lozar, Heather Sobrepena, Philip Belangie, Carla Lott, Raylee Honeycutt and Billie LeDeau

Invited Guests:

Glenniss Indreland, Alger Swingley and Carmen Levick, Jan Stoddard

Roll call and quorum established.

Welcome/Purpose of Gathering:

Meeting started at 10:10 am. Welcome and invocation by Shelly Fyant, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes. Shawn Real Bird provided an overview of the STEDC agenda.

Non-agenda items comments:

Chair Real Bird gave a brief overview of the STED Commission and how it started. Each attendee introduced him/herself.

Jason Smith informed the Commission that the Governor's Office is hiring 3 new administrative positions and are taking recommendations. These positions are appointed and will expire at the end of the current administration. Also, the Governor's Office is creating a tribal consultation process for state agencies to follow. They are also reviewing the state RFP process for grants and will recommend the inclusion of tribal voice.

Approval of June 20, 2018 Minutes Actions Thereon:

Motion: Commissioner Lonnie Headdress motioned to accept the minutes as presented.

Seconded by: Commissioner Richard Sangrey. Motion carries.

Casey Lozar presented recent staff changes at the Montana Department of Commerce. The Business and Technical Assistance Bureau, of which houses the Office of Indian Country Economic Development programs, is now merged with the Financial Assistance Bureau to become the Business Assistance Bureau. Sean Becker will oversee the new bureau and Casey Lozar will serve as the Interim Division Administrator. Chair Real Bird congratulated Casey on his new position.

OICED PROGRAM REPORTS

Heather Sobrepena presented the Office of Indian Country Economic Development summary sheet of all the programs that fall under the Commission. She pointed out upcoming deadlines for applications as well as reports that will be due soon. Heather and Billie are planning site visits for the Montana Indian Language Program as well as check-ins with Economic Development programs and the NABA's of which 2 are new partners. She touched briefly on the potential for investment in opportunity zones which each tribe in Montana have identified census tracts. She encouraged the Commission to begin thinking about the Tribal Business Planning Grant in correlation with opportunity zones in preparation for potential projects.

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. Past clients include Bloom Montessori, River Bend Lodge, Wolf City Auto and Glacier Rafting.

Heather proposed removing No. 15 in the Prohibited Use of Funds in the NACS guidelines which reads:

"Businesses that present live performances of an indecent sexual nature or derive directly or indirectly more than 2.5% of gross revenue through the sale of products or services, or the presentation of any depictions or displays of an indecent sexual nature"

Motion to approve the removal of No. 15 in the NACS Guidelines:

Motion: Shelly Fyant motioned to approve.

Seconded by: Commissioner Richard Sangrey. Jason Smith Abstained. Motion passes unanimously.

Montana Indian Language Program

Billie created a webpage with all of the downloadable language apps for each tribe

<http://marketmt.com/MILP>.

Heather proposed the following changes to the Montana Indian Language Program guidelines to include the new budget amendment to potentially add additional funds to contracts and change the deliverables deadline to March 2019.

Motion to approve the revisions to the MILP Program Guidelines:

Motion: Commissioner Richard Sangrey motioned to approve.

Seconded by: Commissioner Lonnie Headdress. Motion passes unanimously.

Native American Business Advisors (NABAs) 2019

The Office of Indian Country Economic Development has engaged two new partners, Plenty Doors Community Development Corporation in Crow and Bear Paw Development Corporation in Havre.

Charlene Johnson and other community members created the Apsaalooke Community Market. Charlene will be taking the George Washington Certification.

Bear Paw Development Corporation is teaching monthly classes and trainings in collaboration with Stone Child College with a focus on value-added agriculture.

Heather offered the opportunity to Commissioners to take the GW certification. Heather provided a brief history of the NABAs.

Indian Equity Fund 2019:

The Indian Equity Fund Grant Program closes on Friday, 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.

Montana Indian Youth Small Business Internships

Reports are due September 30. The grants are contracted through September 2019.

STED Indian Equity Fund

Three contracts are completed 1) Blackfeet 2) Fort Belknap and 3) Fort Peck.

FY 2019 STEDC Budget Review

Heather presented the STED Commission operating budget and STED Commission Indian Tourism budget. OICED is anticipating funding cuts in HB 2 funding for the Commission.

Heather completed Leadership Montana which is a program that meets every month for 8-9 months and includes a very diverse group of individuals such as legislators, senators, CEOs, program managers, bankers, hospitals, tribal members, council members etc. They talk about issues that are important to Montana. Leadership Montana wanted to recruit more Native Americans to take the training.

Heather proposed that the Commission fund one person from the Commission to go through the Leadership Montana training. Chair Real Bird would like to find a way to support one person per tribe and expressed the need for leadership in tribal communities. Jason Smith also took the training and added that it is a big commitment in terms of cost and time to the participant and if no commission members take that opportunity, that it be offered to a staffer at the Department of Commerce.

Motion for Commission or staff member to attend Leadership Montana:

Motion: Commissioner Richard Sangrey motioned to approve.

Seconded by: Commissioner Clancy Sivertsen. *Motion passes unanimously.*

Indian Tourism Budget = \$120,000 for current fiscal year. Development of an Indian Country map of each tribe in Montana, creation of a video series and joint venture opportunities.

Capacity development within tribal tourism operators and tribes. One is a 6-week online George Washington tourism certification. We sponsored tribal operators, a TAC member and a STED Commission member to attend the AIANTA conference in New Mexico. We also sponsor tour operators to attend International Roundup. We're also promoting Interpretive Guide training certification. Carla will attend IPW.

Update on Wayfinding and Dual Language Signs Conference Calls

Developing conversation topics around signage, visiting with the tribes on what the signage needs are, have a larger meeting with the Montana Department of Transportation and Senator Tester's staff. General education about what tribes can and can't do and the process to request signage. Casey Lozar encouraged the Commission to reach out to the Montana Department of Transportation to begin building a relationship.

New Business:

AIANTA Conference:

Carla Lott, Philip Belangie, Stephanie Vielle, Kathleen Carpenter, Dr. Ken Ryan and Glenniss Indreland attended the AIANTA Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico September 17-20. The conference provided an authentic cultural experience throughout the entire conference. Carla would like a Montana tribe host a future AIANTA regional meeting.

Montana Tribal Tourism Guidebook:

Carla Lott and Raylee Honeycutt co-presented on the Montana Tribal Tourism Guidebook.

Raylee gave an overview of marketing strategies of the visitmt website. The tribal nations website was revamped by the content team and added a map, trip itineraries, guides and tours, events and how to get to Montana. There were 16,000 page views or 2300% increase and will continue to grow. Joint Venture program produced 1.9 million impressions which means the amount of time it shows up in front of someone. The Indian Relay episode was launched in May and had 960,000 views.

Carla gave a brief overview of the guidebook layout, table of contents, tribal pages and itineraries. She described the different itineraries and routes, each page will have a map. Basic information about the tribes. Photography was done by a tribal member during the fire season. The guidebook showcases culture, history, regalia, pow wow etiquette and tribal retail businesses.

New Business:

Jennifer Olson, Division Administrator of the Community Development Division shared information about the Opportunity Zones Program. Federal regulations will be released in the Fall 2018.

Delina Cuts The Rope, Chief Administrative Officer for the Fort Belknap Indian Community, provided an overview of Discover Fort Belknap activities which includes tours, RV facilities, mission hiking canyon trails, bird watching and buffalo tours. <https://www.fortbelknapcedc.org/>

Sean Becker discussed MOTBD division transition. The Business and Technical Assistance Bureau, of which houses the Office of Indian Country Economic Development programs, is now merged with the Financial Assistance Bureau to become the Business Assistance Bureau. Sean Becker will oversee the new bureau and Casey Lozar will serve as the Interim Division Administrator.

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.