

State Tribal Economic Development Commission
MEETING MINUTES
November 28, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Shawn Real Bird STED Chairman (Crow Tribe), Richard Sangrey STED Vice Chairman (Chippewa Cree Tribe), Terry Pitts (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes), Mike Fox, Jr. (Fort Belknap Indian Community), Tracy Robinson (Northern Cheyenne Tribe), Clarence Sivertsen (Little Shell Tribe of the Chippewa Indians), Pat Wise (Governor's Office of Economic Development), Lesa Evers (Governor's Office of Indian Affairs), Andy Poole (Montana Department of Commerce)

STAFF PRESENT: Jason Smith, STEDC Program Manager; Heather Sobrepena-George, ICED Program Manager

PUBLIC: Michelle Fox (Island Mountain Dev. Group), Juanita Cole (Island Mountain Dev. Group), Tony Preite (Rural Development, US Dept. of Agriculture), Victor Bjornberg (MT Office of Tourism), Trudi Schmidt (Fmr. Great Falls State Representative)

WELCOME/ PURPOSE OF GATHERING- Chairman Shawn Real Bird;
Prayer Commissioner Mike Fox, Jr.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Pitts to accept the meeting minutes from April 11, 2012. Seconded by Commissioner Richard Sangrey. Approval by 8-0 with 1 commissioner absent for vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS-

REPORTS/ONGOING BUSINESS

1. **Budget:** State Tribal Economic Development Program update.

Update by Commissioner Andy Poole—the State Tribal Economic Development Commission budget is \$100,000.

Commissioner Poole: The 2017 Indian Equity Fund match will be \$31,500 from each Tribe for a 1:1 match. The tribe can use their Indian Country Economic Development funding if they so choose and can match different amounts per year.

Vice Chair Sangrey: Will the tribes have to match the funding?

Commissioner Poole: Yes, the tribes can match the funding, but will not be required. They will have a bigger pool of money if they match. The current ICED funding is one-time-only funding so the legislature will need to approve the funding beyond the current fiscal year (FY) 2013.

Commissioner Pitts: The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have passed a resolution to use \$6,300 from their ICED to match in FY 2013. It took a year to support the set aside, but we understand it is an investment and would like to help the other tribes if they don't have the investment.

Commissioner Fox: The Ft. Belknap Council is interested in supporting the 2017 Indian Equity Fund, but will need to discuss it.

Commissioner Sivertsen: The Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians is interested, but need to look at their budget before committing any funding.

Chairman Real Bird: When do we need a commitment?

Commissioner Poole: December 7, 2012 is the deadline for the ICED application.

State Tribal Economic Development Commission
MEETING MINUTES
November 28, 2012

Commissioner Evers: *Does the funding go the Montana Indian Equity Fund (MIEF) or to the tribes?*

Commissioner Poole: *It is up to the commission to decide the requirements and how and where the money will be distributed.*

Rural Development Coordinator Tony Preite: *A revolving loan fund would put STEDC into a position to access other funding to increase the RLF.*

Commissioner Poole: *This may be the time to match the Indian Equity Fund because we are not promised to have ICED funding next session because it is one-time-only funding.*

Commissioner Evers: *I want to be on record that I am not in favor that we, as a commission, make it mandatory or strongly suggest to Tribes that they consider committing funds as matching.*

Chairman Real Bird: *I think the commission needs to show support for the Indian Equity Fund to the MT Department of Commerce.*

Commissioner Evers: *Can we use unused funds from STEDC program to begin the Indian Equity Fund?*

Commissioner Poole: *I will check with Teri Juneau (Commerce Accountant & Fiscal Manager), but I think we can.*

Vice Chair Sangrey: *I will take it back to my council.*

Chairman Real Bird: *How many Tribes will support the Indian Equity Fund match? (Show of hands):*

- *Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes*
- *Ft. Belknap Tribe*
- *Crow Tribe*
- *Little Shell of Chippewa Indians*

Continued—Heather can you make a template for the commissioners to support the set aside for the Indian Equity Fund?

(ICED) Program Manager Sobrepena-George: *If using ICED funding, it would require a tribal resolution. If tribes want, they can request to amend any current contract if they are having trouble spending down their funds. They can also include a set-aside in their application for FY2013 ICED funds, due December 7, 2012.*

2. Election of Officers:

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Pitts to keep Shawn Real Bird as Chairman and Richard Sangrey as Vice Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Clarence Sivertsen. Approval by 9-0 vote.

3. Strategic Planning Session Update: Update by Heather Sobrepena-George (ICED)

Commissioner Wise: *We may consider to having a STEDC meeting during the legislative session to discuss the budgets.*

Vice Chair Sangrey: *I would like to meet during the legislative session.*

Motion made by Commissioner Andy Poole to schedule the next commission meeting during the legislative session during the appropriations schedule discussing Commerce budget. Seconded by Commissioner Tracy Robinson. Approval by 9-0 vote.

State Tribal Economic Development Commission
MEETING MINUTES
November 28, 2012

4. **Montana Office of Tourism:** Update by Victor Bjornberg (Tourism Dev. Education Coord) and Thurston Elfstrom (Interactive Marketing Manager):
- Electronic Marketing Grant
 - Grant deadline 12/14/12
 - \$150,000
 - Special Events Grant Program
 - Update
 - Tourism Infrastructure Investment Program
 - Non-profits eligible
 - \$1:2 Match
 - \$20,000 minimum
5. **Commission Statutory Review:** Update by Commissioner Andy Poole

LUNCH

6. **63rd State Legislature:** Former Montana State Representative Trudi Schmidt

Former MT State Representative Schmidt: When testifying for a bill tell the legislators how the legislation impacts you and why it is important. They receive tons of stats, but they want to hear your personal story. Legislators must be hearing from you now when they are not busy for more impact rather during session when they have less time to discuss issues or check emails. It is effective to communicate your issues before the session begins.

7. **Horse Racing:** Chairman Shawn Real Bird

Chairman Real Bird: Native Americans own a majority of the horses that race in the horse racing. Senator Cliff Larsen may submit a bill to the legislature to locate the Horse Racing into the Montana Department of Commerce.

Motion by Chairman Real Bird to have the Montana Board of Horse Racing meet with the State Tribal Economic Development Commission. Seconded by Vice Chair Richard Sangrey. Approval 6-0 with 1 Abstention by Commissioner Andy Poole and 1 Commissioner Lisa Evers Not Present for vote.

5:00 ADJOURN- Motion to adjourn made by Vice Chair Richard Sangrey. Seconded by Commissioner Tracy Robinson. Motion approved 9-0 vote.