

State Tribal Economic Development Commission

Commission Meeting

June 12th, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Shawn Real Bird (Chairman), Richard Sangrey (Vice Chairman), Terry Pitts, Michael Fox, Jason Smith, Cheryl Reevis, Clancy Siversten (LS Alternate), Gerald Gray, Garrett Big Leggins

Public Present:

Leona Kienenberger, Gerald Gray Sr., Colleen Hill, Richard Parenteau, Shawn Stither, Darrel Bummel, Timothy Nault, Thelma Stanley, Cam Smith, Nicholas Vrooman, Roger Salois, Caroline Fluery, Donald Fish, Linda Sowell, Casey Schreiner, Joseph Sam Williamson, Lea Whitford, Chuck Real Bird, Lt. Governor Angela McLean, McCall Flynn and Mae Nan Ellingson

Staff Present:

Casey Winn Lozar, Heather Sobrepena-George, Philip Belangie, Karyl Tobel, Eleanor Yellowrobe, Mary Craigle

Welcome/Purpose of Gathering:

Meeting started at 9:22 with Chairman Real Bird welcoming Commissioners and guests to the meeting. Commissioner Gerald Gray welcomed all to the Little Shell Cultural Center. Guest Richard Parenteau gave the prayer. Vice Chairman Richard Sangrey discussed the recent Economic Development Advisory Council meeting where Indian economic development was highlighted. Commissioner Cheryl Reevis thanked the staff for their work on Indian economic development in Montana.

Quorum established with 8 voting members present.

Public Comment:

There was no formal public comment

Approval of February 27th Minutes and Actions Thereon:

Motion: Commissioner Gerald Gray motioned to accept the February 27th meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Michael Fox. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

Reports:

STED Commission Budget and Activities:

Staff member, Casey Lozar, provided a report on recent activities that included the reservation tour he went on with Harlan Trombley of the Department of Corrections and Jason Smith of the Office of Indian Affairs. He also provided an update on the Montana Indian Language Preservation Pilot Program

reporting that language product development and implementation was now getting momentum and language teams were gearing up for all summer language activities. He developed a flow tool and planning sheets to help the language teams better manage the sequence and budgeting of activities. It was reported that the tribes had received \$1,187,900 of the \$2 million. The language teams are now only responsible for submitting invoices over \$7,500 as opposed to every invoice as determined in January. Casey introduced the idea of making the recommendation to do a language summit during next legislative session. A sample budget and plan was distributed to all Commissioners for the language summit.

Motion: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Richard Sangrey and seconded by Commissioner Gerald Gray to formally support the idea of hosting a language summit during the winter. All in favor. Motion passes.

Casey reported that the 2014 FY budget will be fully expensed by the end of June. As of June 12th, there was \$15,603 remaining in the budget with specific plans to utilize all monies. Casey reported that a total of \$80,250 has been committed to date to the STEDC Indian Equity Fund with a remaining \$171,750 to be granted to the fund in order to receive the match from the SSBCI program. He asked Commissioners to discuss with their leadership to make the remaining distributions into the STEDC Indian Equity Fund.

Commissioner Reevis discussed the tight timeline for the language project stating that she wished there was more time and that there needs to be some integration with the schools so the deliverables will be actively used.

Commissioner Pitts asked to be notified of any challenges that his projects may be having and underscored the importance of consistent communication for start-up/pilot programs.

Vice Chairman Sangrey wrapped up discussion by explaining that there always growing pains with new programs and this is the case with the language project.

Indian Country Economic Development Program Update:

Heather Sobrepena-George provided a brief update on the current status of the tribal priority projects. Examples of projects were introduced. She discussed the opened contracts that haven't been confirmed for the fiscal year. Philip Belangie reported on the Montana Indian Equity Fund program and current recipients. He handed out a document that described his efforts to identify the impact of the equity fund program and how equity fund dollars have been used over the years by recipients. Philip reported on the TA/training work that he is engaged in with the Native American business advisors.

Main Street Montana Project:

Lt. Governor Angela McLean re-introduced the Main Street Montana Project to the Commission. She described the report that was disseminated in April that broke out the project in a pillar system that included objectives, tasks and implementation leaders. Mae Nan Ellingson noted the plan for working with each tribal community on prioritizing the outcomes in the report for Indian Country and the

importance of working directly with each tribe as each tribe will have different priorities for the MSMP efforts. Casey Lozar walked the Commission through the Indian Country portion of the document and described the process for community meetings at each reservation. Lt. Governor McLean reiterated Commissioner Gray's suggestion of ensuring that the urban Indian community is involved and that meetings take place in urban settings.

A discussion with the Lt. Governor continued with conversations about the need for infrastructure development, mentoring programs with the youth on business/career planning and ideas about Free Trade Zones on Indian lands were discuss

Lunch Presentation-

Little Shell Band of Chippewa Language Team: Gerald Gray Sr. and his staff provided an update of the previous and upcoming activities for the Little Shell project. Gerald and staff talked about their upcoming trip to Canada for the Little Shell history and language tour and the consortium that was created between Stone Child College and Turtle Mountain Community College.

Honoring:

Long time Department of Commerce administrator, Andy Poole, was honored for his service and commitment to STEDC and Indian Country

Indian Country Economic Development Program Report Cont'd:

Ms. Sobrepena-George wrapped up her status update on the ICED programming. She then presented proposed budgets for FY 15, 16 and 17. The FY 2015 budget would total the same as previous years at \$800,000 but the priority projects to each tribe would be at \$65,000 and the administration costs would be slightly elevated. For the 2017 biennium, Heather proposed the ICED program budget be increased to \$2 million at \$1 million annually. Priority project funding would increase to \$75,000/tribe and additional funds would be allocated to technical assistance and training.

Motion: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Sangrey and seconded by Commissioner Reevis to formally recommend the proposed budgets for 2015 and the 2017 biennium. All in favor. Motion passes

STEDC Strategic Plan Follow-Up:

Casey and Heather provided a follow up to the February discussion about the STEDC strategic plan. The action plan was categorized into 1) data gathering 2) dissemination of information and 3) making recommendations. Data was gathered through the MSMP efforts, feedback from recent reservation tour, tribal ag outreach convening and tourism programmatic activities. Additionally, more information on Indian economic development priorities will come from MSMP community meetings at each reservation. Heather and Philip will continue gathering data on the past investments of the ICED program to understand its effectiveness and any potential gaps in the program. This information and funding opportunities will be disseminated to unique user lists of which will continually be developed. An analysis of past investments and new priorities should result in new recommendations to Indian Country and the Department of Commerce.

Reservation Economic Analysis Project Update:

Mary Craigle and Eleanor Yellowrobe presented an updated copy of the REAP report and discussed the timeline for the completion of the project. New tables have been added to the report and previous figures have been adjusted to accommodate new financial information from various tribes. Eleanor urged Commissioners to help her in getting the final information from the report by helping her set meetings with the appropriate accounting and finance individuals at their respective tribes. Phase II and III surveys will be created and tested in June and July and in the field July/August. It is anticipated that all phases of the REAP project will be completed by September 30th.

Commissioner Pitts asked for a one-page document that will help explain the outcomes of the REAP project before the end of the year. Chairman Shawn Real Bird asked that language be developed to explain the lack of multiplier effect in reservation economies. He asked that this be included in the one-page document on REAP.

Mary Craigle handed out two letters to the Commission. One letter was a template that would come from Chairman Real Bird to the recipients of the business and consumer surveys. He asked that the template add “the 8 tribes of Montana” to the first sentence of the letter. The second letter had language for a potential radio ad for reservation radio stations.

Motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Reevis to allow Mary Craigle to use the templates with the proposed changes for the REAP surveys. All in favor. Motion passes.

Break:

Mt. Dept of Agriculture-Funding Programs: Joel Clairmont (*Salish*), Deputy Director of the Montana Department of Agriculture, provided a power point presentation on the various funding programs available through Ag. He discussed the opportunities that are unique to tribal operators.

USDA Farm Service Agency Update:

Janet Smith, farm loan manager from the Great Falls district presented an update of FSA programs.

Montana Office of Tourism:

Victor Bjornberg, Tourism Development Coordinator, gave a presentation and handed out flash drives with information regarding tourism funding that is available to tribes and tribal tourism operators.

Adjourn

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Pitts and seconded by Vice Chairman Sangrey to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion passes. Meeting ended at 5:37.