

State Tribal Economic Development Commission

Meeting

May 10, 2016

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Shawn Real Bird (Chairperson) Richard Sangrey, Joe Fox Jr., Merlin Sioux, Delina Cuts the Rope, Clancy Sivertsen, Gerald Gray, Harry Barnes, Shelly Fyant, Len Two Teeth, Jason Smith, John Rogers

Staff Present:

Casey Winn Lozar, Margaret Cook, Heather Sobrepena-George, Philip Belangie

Guests Present:

Shann Gilbert, Little Shell Tribe; Troy Felsman; Councilman, CSKT; Gary Gannon, sciGaia; D. Madison, Innovate Montana; Forest Nelson, Energy Efficient Homes

Roll call and quorum established.

Invocation: Joe Fox Jr., Northern Cheyenne

Welcome/Purpose of Gathering:

Meeting started at 1:15 PM Welcome by Acting Chairperson - Vice Chair Richard Sangrey, Rocky Boy Chippewa Cree with a short report on issues of importance to STEDC which include the need to revisit the Strategic Plan and also the need to educate the Legislature on issues of important to Tribes.

Approval of March Minutes and Actions Thereon:

Motion: Commissioner Gray motioned to accept the March 2016 meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Fox With correct spelling of Commissioner Gray noted. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

Indian Country Program Reports: Casey Lozar reported on the Indian Country Programs situated in the Business Development Division, which houses a host of programming. Welcome to the new STED Commissioners Shelly Fyant and Len Twoteeth. Casey reported on the last 12 months of activity that included several meetings with the STRC to update legislators and to promote continued dialogue with Montana Legislators. Developing relationships with the Legislators is very important as Mr. Sangrey has reported. With other team members Heather Sobrepena-George, Philip Belangie and Margaret Cook we have made three tribal tours, meeting with tribal governments, tribal colleges and language programs. We have also met with 40+ Banks around Montana to promote the NACS program. We have also attended two language summits. In addition we have enhanced the ICED program, making adjustments from the STEDC recommendations. We have had countless trainings and webinars for both business and financial counselling. This has resulted in approximately 80 applications this year compared to

approximately 40 in the past years. We have developed a very positive media relationship with very positive articles as well as a blog with the Federal Reserve Bank. The last Legislative agenda aligned with the STEDC recommendations. This has resulted in an amazing last 12 months and we are excited for the next 12 months. Casey also thanked his team that has made all of this success possible under the leadership of Heather Sobrepena-George and including Philip Belangie and Margaret Cook.

MILP: Margaret Cook reported on the Language Program and in particular the annual Language Summit that was held in collaboration with the Montana Indian Education Conference. The Summit was well received at the conference with all work sessions filled to capacity. The MILP was asked to collaborate with the MIEC again next year. During the meeting of the language program staff there was a discussion on the need to ensure that the language program continues to respond to the requests of tribal members as well as the youth that were represented by members of the Youth Conference that was being held in Great Falls concurrently with the MIEC/MILP Conference. Casey noted that each of the Language programs are being shortened on their funding this fiscal year however all of the funding will be caught up immediately after the beginning of the next fiscal year which is July 1, 2016.

STED Commission: Margaret reported on the upcoming reception this evening and encouraged all to attend. In addition, the MIBA Conference is to be held next week in Great Falls and if any of the Commissioners would like to attend we may have at least one paid registration.

Tribal Business Planning Grants: Heather Sobrepena-George reported on the Business Planning grants for this year for each of the tribes. All the planning grants are outlined in the information provided.

Tribal Tourism: Heather Sobrepena-George noted the letter from Chairman Barnes that is in meeting packet that outlines the participation of the Blackfeet tribe to the Montana Governor's Tourism Conference. In addition, Heather reported on the successful participation of Montana Tribal leadership to the Tourism Conference which was the best attended by tribes ever. Tribal members and Tribal Tour operators were able to make inroads in networking and gaining a foothold in the tourism industry of Montana. Heather noted that it is important for tribal participants to look at ways to tap into the resources available from the Montana Office of Tourism. A meeting put together by Philip Belangie, the Working Group on Tribal Tourism, focused on the basic needs of Tribal Tourism business owners and staff with a focus on best practices from learning about the traveler to planning and identifying their specific needs. It will be important for this Workgroup to move forward and continue their networking and focusing on tribal specific issues of tourism in Indian Country. Casey reported that his Department is looking at the upcoming budget cycle to carve out strategic based funding for tribal tourism and finding staff to provide support to tribal tourism. These efforts will be reported back to the STEDC at the fall meeting.

Native American Collateral Support (NACS Program): Phillip Belangie gave an update on the NACS program reporting that \$165,000 of the \$500,000 NACS fund has been committed. He also reported that there are a number of interested parties working through the Banks that may take advantage of the program.

Indian Equity Fund: Philip Belangie reported on the press release that went out on April 19, 2016 regarding the NABA Program that has been created to provide counselling and technical assistance to the tribal entrepreneurship and business development for both tribal governments and tribal members. Philip also reported on the results of the grant reviews of the FY16 Indian Equity Fund grants. Of 72 grant applications, 26 were funded for a total of \$320,000. Last year there were 45 applications with only 9 funded for a total of \$126,000

NEW BUSINESS:

2017 Guidelines for ICED, Heather Sobrepena-George reported that the guidelines and program will be ready by July 1, 2016 which is significantly better than in years past. The main difference in these new guidelines is the extension of the contracts with the NABA's. There are other smaller specific changes to the program guidelines which include a matrix on Page 3 of the Guidelines that clearly outlines a chart of activities and time deadlines for fiscal year 2017 for all the ICED funded programs. There is also more specific language for deadlines for local priority applicants referred as Round 1 Funding and at-large applications referred to as Round 2 funding. This will provide the opportunity for the review process to become more streamlined in the application reviews. The application process will take place from August 1, 2016 through to October 31, 2016.

There will be more attention paid to the NABA's and providing training, professional development and certification which will result in better support to the ICED participants. A final recap and report of the NABA's will be provided to the STEDC in preparation of the next biennium funding cycle.

The Tribal Business Planning grant will be available at a rate of \$28,000 per tribal government, with the only change is the definition of eligible activities to include legal and financial codification or ordinances benefitting business(es).

Tribal Demographic and Economic Information Flyers, Margaret Cook requested that each tribe review their demographic and economic information flyers for new updated and accurate information prior to a new printing. It is hopeful that we will be able to get the new flyers completed within the next fiscal year.

Presentation: sciGaia, Gary Gannon. A presentation was made to the Commission from sciGaia by Gary Gannon, a co-founder and Executive Manager. The presentation was focused on the wealth of Tribal Nations as a way of measuring sustainable well-being. The information dealt with ways of measuring wealth and health through measuring values and culture and using the information to make changes and effective economic development that is more reflective of the individual tribal nations.

Presentation: Fort Belknap Tribe, Jim Kennedy – cancelled due to family emergency.

Upcoming Events:

- **Montana Indian Business Alliance (MIBA) Conference** (May 17-19, 2016) Great Falls, MT
- **Census Bureau Access Data Training** (June 6-7, 2016), Havre MT. Notices will be sent out to all Tribal planning offices.
- **"InnovateMontana" Conference**, July 13-14, 2016 Billings, Montana is the Main Street Montana Project Peer-to-Peer Symposium Series
- **NADC Economic Development and Procurement Conference**, August 2-3, 2016, Billings Montana
- **AIANTA (American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association) Conference**, September 11-15, 2016, Tulalip WA.

NEXT STEDC Meeting: August 1, 2016, Billings Mt in conjunction with the NADC Conference.

Adjourn

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Joe Fox Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Sangrey to adjourn the meeting. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passes.