

State Tribal Economic Development Commission

May 22, 2019

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes



Commissioners Present:

Shawn Real Bird (Chair), Richard Sangrey (Vice-Chair), Shelly Fyant, Lonnie Headdress, Clancy Sivertsen, Lane Spotted Elk, Merlin Sioux, Jason Smith, Director Tara Rice

Staff Present:

Heather Sobrepena, Philip Belangie, and Billie LeDeau

Invited Guests:

Tom White, Small Business Administration & Fonda Redfox, Northern Cheyenne

Roll call and quorum established.

Welcome/Purpose of Gathering:

Meeting started at 9:25 am. Invocation by Commissioner Fyant, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes. Chair Real Bird welcomed the Commission and guests.

Non-agenda items comments:

Commissioner Gray thanked Tom White for going above and beyond to assist the Little Shell Tribe.

Approval of December 12, 2018 conference call and September 25, 2019 Minutes Actions Thereon:

Motion: Commissioner Clancy Sivertsen motioned to accept the minutes as presented.

Seconded by: Commissioner Shelly Fyant. Motion carries.

OICED PROGRAM REPORTS

Heather Sobrepena presented an overview of HB 2. The Office of Indian Country Economic Development programs were funded at \$875,000 per fiscal year which is an historical increase from the 2009 session. The Montana Indian Language program will be funded at \$750,000 over the biennium.

HB 10 “**Revise definition of "high-poverty county" for Big Sky Economic Development**” sponsored by Representative Sharon Stewart-Peregoy was signed by the Governor. The bill redefines the “high-poverty county” definition to a rate greater than Montana’s average poverty rate as determined by the U.S. bureau of the census estimate for the most current year available.

HB 428 “**Expand access to board of investment loans to tribal governments**” sponsored by Representative Shane Morigeau was signed by the Governor. The bill gives tribal governments access to Board of Investment loans for infrastructure, water systems, etc. Tribes are also eligible for infrastructure tax credits.

HB 632 “**Require decennial report on economic impact of Indian reservations**” sponsored by Representative Jade Bahr was signed by the Governor. The bill requires, starting in 2020, publish a decennial report, to be authored by the bureau of business and economic research (BBER) at the University of Montana, on the economic contributions and impacts of Indian reservations in Montana

based on federal, state, local, tribal, and private inputs. The Montana American Indian Caucus originally requested \$170,000 fiscal note but it was decreased to \$45,000. The Commission will invite Patrick Barkey of BBER to the next commission meeting to discuss implementation strategies.

Commissioner Fyant expressed the need for better educational outreach for Montana legislators. Commissioner Sioux would like enrollment to be considered in the 2020 Census. Director Rice requested that Census 2020 be a priority for the Commission and placed on a future agenda.

Montana Indian Language Program

The Montana Indian Language program will be funded at \$750,000 over the biennium. New language in the MILP guidelines allows language programs to register for the Native American Made in Montana designation which will create opportunities to take tangible goods to market, provide promotional opportunities and allows programs to monetize products.

Motion to approve the revisions to the MILP Program Guidelines:

Motion: *Commissioner Lonnie Headdress motioned to approve.*

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

Indian Country Economic Development Guidelines

The Office of Indian Country Economic Development programs will be funded at \$875,000 per fiscal year which is an historical increase from the 2009 session. The NABA's will receive an increase of \$20,000 per fiscal year for private sector development. These changes are reflected in the new ICED guidelines.

Motion to approve the revisions to the ICED Guidelines:

Motion: *Commissioner Lane Spotted Elk motioned to approve.*

Seconded by: *Commissioner Richard Sangrey. Motion passes unanimously.*

Native American Collateral Support (NACS) 2019

Philip Belangie provided a brief overview of the NACS program. Issues in access to capital in Indian Country remain a challenge. Philip highlighted the successful collaboration with Valley Bank, First Interstate Bank, Glacier Bank, 1st Community Bank of Wolf Point and MBAC.

Native American Business Advisors (NABAs) 2019

Joe LaPlante will present a "Cash Flow Webinar" in June for the Native American Business Advisors.

Indian Equity Fund 2019:

Funding for the Montana Indian Equity Fund remains at \$320,000 in funding with projected funding of \$40,000 per each community. The maximum amount of each grant is \$14,000. The application cycle closes September 30, 2019.

FY 2020 Tribal Tourism

The 2020 Tribal Tourism budget will not be finalized until October 2019. Approximately \$120,000 from the state bed tax will be available for inspirational assets, capacity development focus, pre-business, market and international ready and will help strengthen tribal government, tour operators and CVB relationships.

The new tribal tourism officer will be announced in June.

Main Street Montana Initiative

A series of roundtables were held on each reservation in May/June 2019. The goal is to provide meaningful assistance to bring economic and community development projects to fruition, including Opportunity Zone projects.

Other Business

Casey Lozar and the President of Minneapolis Federal Reserve will attend the next STED Commission meeting in Billings. They will present on what the Fed is, does, what the Center for Indian Country Development is, their vision for the future AND from the STED, their insights of what is working in Indian economic development and what chronic barriers exist keeping tribal economies from thriving.

Commissioner Sangrey wants to encourage Casey Lozar to visit Indian Country.

Commissioner Spotted Elk shared that Morning Star Propane, a tribally owned business, provides propane services to the Northern Cheyenne community. The business has created 5 good paying jobs and are beginning a coalition with surrounding states.

Commissioner Sangrey shared that the Chippewa Cree Tribe is producing hemp.

Fonda Redfox shared that the Northern Cheyenne are also growing chamomile.

Chair Real Bird expressed that hemp is an issue for all tribes and tribal lands. He would like to see hemp on a future STEDC agenda so tribes understand state and federal law compliance.

Director Rice suggested inviting the Montana Department of Agriculture to a commission meeting to discuss hemp.

Adjourn:

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Sangrey.

Seconded by: Commissioner Clancy Sivertsen to adjourn the meeting. No discussion. All in favor.

Motion passes.