

State Tribal Economic Development Commission

September 26, 2019

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Meeting Minutes



Commissioners Present:

Shawn Real Bird (Chair), Richard Sangrey (Vice-Chair), Cheryl Reeves, Len Twoteeth, Justin Dupree, Gerald Gray, Lane Spotted Elk, Ken Fichtler, Jason Smith, Tara Rice

Staff Present:

Heather Sobrepena, Philip Belangie, Billie LeDeau & Daniel Iverson

Guests:

Leonard Smith, NADC; Rep. Jade Bahr; Henry Speelman, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Councilman; Neel Kashkari, President of FED; Casey Lozar, FED; Alene Tchourumoff, FED; Rob Grunewald, FED; Jay Weiner, FED; and Karl Unterschuetz, UM Center for Research & Economic Development

Roll call and quorum established.

Welcome/Purpose of Gathering:

Meeting started at 9:24 am. Welcome by Chair Shawn Real Bird and invocation by Chairman Gerald Gray of the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe. Shawn provided an overview of the STEDC agenda and discussed the importance of the historical STEDC initiatives.

Non-agenda items comments:

Commissioner Spotted Elk introduced and welcomed Henry Speelman, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Councilman.

Commissioner Twoteeth informed the Commission that S&K Holding is advertising for a business manager and welcomed suggestions from the Commission.

Approval of May 22, 2018 Minutes and July 22, 2018 Conference Call Minutes Actions Thereon:

Motion: Commissioner Lane Spotted Elk motioned to accept the minutes as presented.

Seconded by: Commissioner Gerald Gray. Motion carries.

OICED PROGRAM REPORTS

Billie LeDeau presented an updated STED Commission Handbook that includes current Commission members, roles and responsibilities, internal management procedures, strategic plan, budget, past executive actions, OICED program guidelines and travel policies.

Tribal Business Planning Grants 2019

Heather Sobrepena advised the Commission that Tribal Business Planning Grants applications are due to the Montana Department of Commerce by September 30, 2019.

Native American Business Advisors (NABAs) 2019

NABA applications have closed. Heather is working with NABA's more closely to provide technical assistance. Vice Chair Sangrey wants to see more technical assistance funding for Indian Country.

Commissioner Reevis suggests technical assistance in accounting 101, best practices, how to run a business and legal structure.

Indian Equity Fund 2019:

The Indian Equity Fund Grant Program closes on Friday, September 28th. There is \$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.

Philip Belangie announced his plans to retire at the end of October. He expressed his gratitude to the Commission, Indian Country and tribal people for the many years of collaboration, partnerships and friendships. He also thanked the Indian Country Economic Development staff and the Montana Department of Commerce.

Census 2020

Leonard Smith, Executive Director of the Native American Development Corporation provided an update on the Census 2020 efforts. Leonard serves as a co-chair of the state complete count committee. Each reservation has or will have a complete count committee. Challenges of an accurate count include difficulty counting in remote areas since Census forms can't be mailed to a P.O. or Rural Box location, limited broadband coverage among other factors. NADC is collaborating with Western Native Voice.

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Town Hall

The STED Commission boarded a bus to attend the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Town Hall meeting on the MSU-Billings campus. Minneapolis Fed President Neel Kashkari held an open discussion on what the Federal Reserve does and its role in the economy.

HB 632 "Require decennial report on economic impact of Indian reservations"

Rep. Jade Bahr gave a brief introduction of HB 632 "Require decennial report on economic impact of Indian reservations" legislation she carried in the 66th legislative session. Starting in 2020, publish a decennial report, to be authored by the bureau of business and economic research 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. Copies of the report must be provided to the governor, each tribal government in Montana, the state-tribal economic development commission, and the state-tribal relations committee, and the report must be published on the department's website.

Robert Sonora, Thale Dillon and John Baldrige from the UM bureau of business and economic research presented their research proposal and requested the collaboration of the Commission in gathering economic data.

Commissioner Smith met with the Legislative Audit Committee. The BBER report will be presented to the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council. Vice Chair Sangrey encourages state to look at financial audit reports provided to the state by tribes.

Motion to approve BBER's proposal to conduct decennial report and collaborate with tribal governments to obtain financial documentation:

Motion: Commissioner Richard Sangrey motioned to approve.

Seconded by: Commissioner Gerald Gray. Motion passes unanimously.

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Town Hall

Neel Kashkari, President of the Minneapolis FED joined by Casey Lozar, Alene Tchourumoff, Rob Grunewald and Jay Weiner held an open discussion with the Commission on issues and barriers specific to Indian Country such as home ownership, loans, UCC and economic development on the reservations.

Tribal Tourism Strategic Plan

Dan Iverson, Tribal Tourism Officer, distributed a draft of the *Tribal Tourism Montana FY20–21 Strategic Plan* to members of the commission. Dan delivered a presentation introducing the goal and four pillars of the plan: influence, relationships, capacity, and promotion. For each pillar, Dan highlighted some of the relevant activities completed since the beginning of the fiscal year. After the presentation, Heather Sobrepena distributed copies of the tribal tourism budget for the biennium for approval.

STEDC, MILP & Tribal Tourism Budget Overview

Heather presented the STED Commission, MILP and tribal tourism operating budgets.

Motion to approve STEDC , MILP & Tribal Tourism budgets as presented:

Motion: Commissioner Lane Spotted Elk motioned to approve.

Seconded by: Commissioner Jason Smith. Motion passes unanimously.

UM Center for Rural Economic Development (UM CRED)

The University of Montana has recently been awarded a \$730,000 federal grant to fund efforts to boost economic development in the state's less-populated areas. The five-year grant comes from the U.S. Economic Development Administration's 2018 University Center Economic Development Program. The money will be used to fund efforts to help distressed rural and tribal communities develop sustainable, high-growth entrepreneurial activity.

Karl Unterschuetz, Outreach and Engagement Manager for the University of Montana, Center for Rural & Economic Development provided a brief presentation on their plans to boost rural economic development in Montana by supporting rural and tribal entrepreneurs. The grant will pay for student, staff and capacity within rural and tribal communities. Commissioner Spotted Elk encourages UM CRED to reach out to tribal colleges.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Tara Rice.

Seconded by: Commissioner Gerald Gray to adjourn the meeting. No discussion. All in favor.

Motion passes.