

State Tribal Economic Development Commission

Conference Call
February 26, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Shawn Real Bird (Chairperson), Richard Sangrey (Vice-Chair), Shelly Fyant, Lane Spotted Elk, Merlin Sioux, Clancy Sivertsen, Jason Smith and Ken Fichtler

Staff Present:

Heather Sobrepena, Billie LeDeau and Dan Iverson

Guests Present:

Dacia Whitford, CSKT Economic Development

Welcome/Purpose of Gathering:

Roll call and quorum established. Meeting started at 11:13 AM.

Non-agenda Items Comments:

Chair Shawn Real Bird congratulated Commissioner Shelly Fyant on being selected as Chairwoman of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Approval of 9/26/19 Minutes and 10/8/2019 Conference Call Minutes Actions Thereon:

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

Seconded by: Commissioner Jason Smith. Motion carries.

OICED Program Reports:

Heather Sobrepena provided a brief overview on the current projects for ICED, TBPG, NABA, IEF and NACS. TBPG grants increased to \$30,000 per tribe and NABA's increased to \$20,000 per tribe. The NACS program currently has \$100,000 in funding available for FY20. The Indian Equity Fund funded 25 out of 95 applications of which 90% received assistance from NABAs.

The Entrepreneur Business Development Specialist position is open for applications. The position will be located in Helena. OICED is hiring a temporary position to assist in project/file management as well as inventory/archive MILP deliverables.

Billie LeDeau informed the Commission that all MILP contracts have been executed and projects are underway with the exception of two. The two outstanding contracts are being drafted for review and approval. Chair Real Bird would like to see the MILP program move in the direction of working with their land grant institutions or tribal colleges to develop language degree programs.

Tribal Tourism Update:

Dan Iverson presented the Tribal Tourism strategic plan. Minor adjustments were made to clarify activities and key performance indicators. Copies of the plan are being sent to various industry partners for distribution.

Summer Marketing is underway. The Visitmt.com website is being updated with current powwow/celebration dates as well as current photo assets.

Dan presented a, overview of the FY20 tribal tourism budget. There is approximately \$135,000 remaining in the budget this fiscal year for tribal tourism activities. The budget is organized under categories that reflect the pillars of the strategic plan; Influence, Relationships, Capacity and Promotion.

OICED is partnering with the Smithsonian to do two videos, 2-3 minutes each, to be filmed at the Great Falls artists event and in Browning. They will conduct artist interviews and film artists in action.

Each tribal nation has been invited to choose a representative to attend (at no cost) the Governor's Conference on Tourism and Recreation. The invitation is also being extended to tribal business owners. There are two breakout session dedicated to tribal tourism.

The Native Act, a federal law passed in 2016, seeks to increase support for tribal tourism in the U.S. The BIA is contracting with Virginia Tech University to do a tribal tourism project in various states and Montana was a chosen state. The project through the Native Act would include various assessments and workshops across Indian Country.

OICED is partnering with the University of Montana to conduct a survey to collect data on how much money is being generated in terms of visitor impacts.

ACTION: Motion made by Commissioner Lane Spotted Elk to approve the FY20 Tribal Tourism budget. Seconded by: Commissioner Clancy Sivertsen. Motion carries.

OLD BUSINESS

The OICED team and Jason Smith met with the Bureau of Business and Economic Research to discuss ways to access information for the decennial report to the legislature. The STED Commission committed to provide a letter to tribal chairs informing them of the research project and connecting BBER with the appropriate tribal contacts. A report draft is due to the department in August 2020 and will be presented to the State Tribal Relations Interim Committee for the next legislative session.

NEW BUSINESS

STED Commission Strategic Planning Session

Billie provided a brief overview of the State Tribal Economic Development Commission strategic planning session scheduled for May 4-6, 2020 in Browning. The purpose of the session is to create a strategic plan to develop a mission, goals and objectives, SWOT analysis, environmental scan, strategy formulation, and strategy implementation for Indian Country economic development. Solicitation for a facilitator is being formulated and will be sent out to numerous consulting firms with experience and knowledge of Indian Country.

Motion made by Commissioner Clancy Sivertsen to Adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Richard Sangrey. Motion carried.