

**North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission**  
600 East Blvd Avenue, J-Wing  
Pioneer Room - Bismarck ND

November 13, 2024  
1:00 pm

### **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 1:54 pm

Opening prayer by Frank Jamerson

### **Roll Call**

Member	Present	Absent
Chairwoman Lonna Jackson-Street	XX	
Chairwoman Janet Alkire – Frank Jamerson	XX	
Chairman Mark Fox	XX	
Chairman J. Garret Renville		XX
Chairman Jamie Azure – Alysia LaCounte	XX	
Dr. Leander McDonald		XX
Dr. Viola Slater		XX
Erica Thunder		XX
Brad Hawk, Executive Director	XX	
Lt. Gov Tammy Miller	XX	
Governor Doug Burgum		XX

### **Other Attendees**

John Reiten, Policy Advisor, Governor’s Office

Anthony Bauer, Deputy Director, ND Indian Affairs

Melinda Padilla Lynch, Economic and Workforce Development Specials, ND Indian Affairs

Marietta Kemmet, Executive Assistant ND Indian Affairs

#### **1. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Lt. Gov. Miller thanked the group for their support and involvement in the commission and expressed gratitude.

Director Hawk provided an update on the agenda with a few changes.

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

- Motion by Chairwoman Jackson-Street, seconded by Frank Jamerson.
- Motion approved.

#### **3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- Motion by Frank Jamerson, seconded by Chairman Fox.
- Motion approved.

#### **4. Director's Report**

- Director Hawk highlighted progress in Tribal-State relations, including initiatives in behavioral health services and tourism expansion.
- Questions were raised about events for the 250th celebration.
- Introduction of the team from North Dakota Indian Affairs.

#### **5. Presentation: Anthony Bauer**

- Discussed Government to Government (G2G) preparation, funding sources, and proactive approaches.
- G2G conference tentatively scheduled for the first week of June.
- Reparations at UND are ongoing; assistance may be requested.
- Possible FTE request for a Public Information Officer.
- Updates on MOUs with the Highway Patrol and asset list compilation by Tansai.
- Hall of Honor event scheduled for November 15.
- Various initiatives, including Native Vote training, workforce board, healthcare tech programs, and farmers' market programs, were discussed.

#### **6. Presentation: Melinda Padilla Lynch**

- Provided an update on the G2G conference and planning for the next year.
- Partnerships with Tansi to determine Tribal workforce needs and economic assets.
- Hosted a developer's lunch covering grant writing and economic development.
- Plans for a newsletter to share Tribal events and developments.
- Collaboration with the Department of Commerce on an RFP process.
- Relationship developments include USDA, Law Enforcement, and North Dakota jobs.
- Development of the *Five Nations Rising Podcast* on YouTube, focused on small businesses and economic growth.
- Future initiatives: Native Cohort Exchange, a *Native Day* in the legislative hall (February 20, 2025).

#### **7. New Business**

##### **Tribal Assets – Barry Chalifoux, CEO of Tansi Consulting, LLC**

- Discussed contractual funds allocated in the ND Indian Affairs budget to attract businesses.
- Presented findings from Tribal Nations meetings.

- Standing Rock meetings planned in the coming weeks.
- Presentation outlined objectives and data collection methods.
- Final report will be provided to the Tribes upon completion.

#### **8. NDDOT Presentation – Ron Henke & Matt Linneman**

- Addressed concerns about Oahe Bridge and other bridge replacements.
- Discussion on maintenance, jurisdiction, and enforcement responsibilities.
- DOT offers training on various equipment operations for Tribal participation.
- Updates on Turtle Mountain modifications for Hwy 281 and BIA 13 intersection.
- Signage requests and Highway Safety fund distribution were discussed.

#### **9. Native Vote & Legislative Involvement**

- A legislative training day will be held to educate Tribes on legislative processes.
- Nicole Donaghy, Executive Director of North Dakota Native Vote, presented an overview of the organization's efforts.

#### **10. Tribal Leaders Updates**

##### **Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa – Alysia LaCounte, General Counsel**

- Google Earth identified sacred burial sites; efforts underway for removal.
- Ongoing search for a new college president.
- Updates on MOUs with Natural Resources, Bureau of Criminal Investigations, and local law enforcement.
- Plans for a tourism campus near SkyDancer Casino.
- Concerns about water resources, insurance coverage issues, and juvenile justice system collaboration.

##### **Spirit Lake Tribe – Chairwoman Lonna Jackson-Street**

- Leadership changes at Cankdeska Chicana Community College and Spirit Lake Casino.
- Veterans to be honored at the Casino.
- Wind farm funding returned due to lengthy environmental study.
- MOUs with Highway Patrol and county Sheriff's department.
- Search planned for missing Tribal members.
- Concerns about veteran housing and land considerations for Spirit Lake Health Center.

##### **Standing Rock Sioux Tribe – Vice-Chair Frank Jamerson**

- Bridge planning underway to connect east and west sides.
- Prairie Knights Casino under new management.
- USDA grant awarded for telecom infrastructure.
- Rock Propane is now Tribal owned, with new gas stations opening.
- Additional ambulance base established for quicker response times.
- Food distribution and law enforcement concerns addressed.

**Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation – Chairman Fox**

- Election results: three incumbents re-elected.
- Fire incident managed through Tribal-State partnerships.
- Medical campus nearing completion.
- Greenhouse project to produce six annual crops, with sales targeting USDA and commercial outlets.
- Energy projects: hydrogen hub, Strategic Petroleum Reserve program, LNG marketing.
- Ongoing concerns regarding water logistics and unemployment.
- Continued cooperation with the State encouraged.

**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate – No member present**

No comments from At-large Commissioners Dr. Viola Slater, Dr. Leander McDonald, and Erica Thunder.

**11. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 PM.

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**Attachments:**

- PowerPoint Presentations (Anthony Bauer, Nicole Donaghy)