

North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission

Sage Coulee Wellness Center

1321 Elbowoods Drive, Bismarck ND

March 6, 2025

1:00 pm

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm

Opening prayer by Darrell Bearstail

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Director Hawk opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

Roll Call

Member	Present	Absent
Chairwoman Lonna Jackson-Street		XX
Chairwoman Janet Alkire		XX
Chairman Mark Fox	XX	
Chairman J. Garret Renville – joined meeting at 1:21 pm	XX	
Chairman Jamie Azure – Alysia LaCounte representing	XX	
Dr. Leander McDonald	XX	
Dr. Viola Slater	XX	
Erica Thunder	XX	
Brad Hawk, Executive Director	XX	
Lt. Gov Michelle Strinden		XX
Governor Kelly Armstrong	XX	

Other Attendees

Roz Leighton, Chief of Staff, 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

Mark Van Norman, Outside Counsel, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate

Travis Renville, Old Agency District Chairman, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate

Sheriff J.R. Kerzman, McLean County

Ladd Erickson, States Attorney, McLean County

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda by Chairman Mark Fox, seconded by Erica Thunder.
- Motion carried by voice vote.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes from the November 13 meeting by Chairman Fox, seconded by Erica Thunder.
- Motion carried by voice vote.

Remarks by Governor Armstrong

- Governor Armstrong welcomed all attendees and expressed appreciation for their work.
- Highlighted the G2G conference and new emerging topics.
- Announced the creation of the Office of Recovery and Reentry.
- Stated his commitment to open communication and plans to travel statewide to meet with stakeholders post-session.
- Emphasized the need for uniform delivery of Native American curriculum across the state.

North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission (NDIAC) Update

- Director Brad Hawk provided a summary of activities:
- Preparation for legislative session and Legislative Training Day.
- Finalization of economic asset review for each tribe, to be used in partnership with the Department of Commerce.
- G2G conference planning is underway; participants encouraged to submit session topics.
- Conference to include a trade show.
- Historical cost comparison of conferences presented: from \$264/person in the first year to \$97/person currently (includes food, programs, and other costs).

New Business

Ladd Erickson – Jurisdiction and MOUs

- Discussion on two Supreme Court cases involving jurisdiction over non-Indian offenders on reservations.
- Issues raised about 638 contracts limiting tribal law enforcement's ability to operate off-reservation.
- Emphasis on clarifying jurisdiction among county, state, and federal entities.
- Proposal for broader stakeholder involvement in resolving jurisdiction issues.

Governor Armstrong & Roz Leighton – Vision for Partnership

- Need for a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlining roles, responsibilities, and response times.
- Monitoring of federal funding amid national uncertainty.
- Urged direct communication regarding specific issues and problems.

Legislative Update

- Currently tracking 45 bills:
- 18 passed in the House
- 10 passed in the Senate
- 13 failed
- 4 withdrawn

Native American History Curriculum

- General consensus on the need for a standardized curriculum statewide.
- Plan to convene relevant partners to collaboratively develop the curriculum.

Federal Funding Discussion

- Governor Armstrong emphasized consistent communication and unified goals.
- Encouraged proactive federal engagement to benefit all tribal stakeholders.

Tribal Leaders Updates

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa – Alysia LaCounte (General Counsel for Chairman Jamie Azure)

- Meetings on the 115 waiver and game transportation.
- Recovery center operational; billing rate concerns persist.
- Tourism developments: veterans park and trampoline park (safety concerns).
- Community amenities: water park open.
- Employment opportunities: seeking IT Director and Cybersecurity Professor.
- Exploring a data farm in Trenton area.

Spirit Lake Tribe – Chairwoman Lonna Jackson-Street

No report; representatives unable to attend due to an incident on the reservation.

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe – Chairwoman Janet Alkire

No report; no representative in attendance.

Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation – Chairman Mark Fox

- Hatchery collaboration (catch and reward program).
- Medicare/Medicaid waiver efforts.
- Expansion of tourism, recreation, and park infrastructure.
- Concerns about gaming expansion and peak employment (50%).
- Development of a destination resort and sports betting.
- Water fracking regulations and joint energy strategies.
- LNG export initiatives.

- Road infrastructure funding challenges.
- Partnership with Sanford Health; frustrations over shifting treatment quotas.

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate – Chairman J. Garret Renville

- Presented with Mark Van Norman and Travis Renville.
- Discussed the Section 17 corporation managing Indian Health Services.
- Collaboration on a state plan amendment to improve Medicaid access.
- Letter of intent signed with South Dakota; all nine tribal nations participating.
- Coordination with bordering tribes in North Dakota underway.

At-Large Commissioners

Dr. Leander McDonald

- Expressed appreciation to the new Governor.
- Shared updates on the ND Tribal College System.
- Public institutions chartered by federally recognized tribes.
- Collaborative efforts with the ND University System.
- Serve native and non-native students.
- Affordable, accessible education.
- Recently completed an economic impact study.
- 2,272 enrolled students.
- Two colleges involved in FARMS initiative.

Erica Thunder

Deferred her update.

Dr. Viola Slater

- Expressed gratitude for the information shared.
- Background in education.
- Invited to participate in curriculum development tied to ND standards.
- Noted concern over teacher shortages.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:33 P.M.