

North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission  
North Dakota State Capitol  
600 E. Blvd Ave, Pioneer Room  
Bismarck ND 58505

August 24, 2022  
2:00 p.m.  
TEAMS Meeting/In Person

## Call to Order

## Roll Call

Member	No	Absent
Dr. Viola LaFontaine	x	
Chairman Jamie Azure	x	
Chairman Mark Fox	x	
Chairwoman Alkire	x	
Chairman Delbert Hopkins, Jr.		x
Erica Thunder	Joined at 3:10 pm	
Dr. Leander McDonald		x
Chairman Douglas Yankton	Joined at 2:40 pm	
Governor Doug Burgum	x	
Nathan Davis, Exe	x	

## Other Attendees

Marietta Kemmet, Executive Assistant ND Indian Affairs  
Brad Hawk, Health Systems Program Administrator, ND Indian Affairs

Opening prayer by Dr. Viola LaFontaine.

## Approval of Minutes

Moved by Dr. Viola LaFontaine to approve minutes as presented from April 27, 2022, meeting. Chairman Fox seconded. Roll call vote, motion approved.

Member	Yes	Absent
Dr. Viola LaFontaine	x	
Chairman Jamie Azure	x	
Chairman Mark Fox	x	
Chairwoman Alkire	x	
Chairman Delbert Hopkins, Jr.		x
Erica Thunder		x
Dr. Leander McDonald		x
Chairman Douglas Yankton		x
Governor Doug Burgum	x	

## **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**Governor Doug Burgum** thanked members of the Indian Affairs office and cabinet members present for presentations and Tribal Chairs present. He remains optimistic about the future and the future and current collaboration of many projects.

**Director Nathan Davis** discussed the busy summer with the Government to Government, the next meeting for the event will be finalized within a short time. The completion and success of the ND Indian Education Summit. visitors from India hosted by Minot State University on the topic of gender-based violence also joined by Representative Ruth Buffalo. Hosting fellowships with the Department of Commerce a group from Berlin, assisting Dr McDonald with a group from Kazakhstan. Tribal State Relations committee meeting previous week with Brad Hawk representing the office. He will be coordinating with Tribal Colleges and the explore the need to increase Indian scholarship funding and possible rebranding of the scholarship. He acknowledged Ms. Cynthia Monteau on her work on state statute on how Tribes interact with State government agencies and are seeking comments and ideas on how this may update the processes used for interaction. He will be hosting the Summit Leadership event and mentioned the North Dakota Indian Hall of Honor.

Brad Hawk updated the members on the ongoing work on health care, has been quiet for the summer. There will be a Tribal Health directors meeting on August 30<sup>th</sup> at Spirit Lake. There will also be a North Dakota Medicaid Tribal consultation meeting on September 6<sup>th</sup> which is a quarterly meeting. Oral Health Coalition is revamping and reworking and engaging tribal communities. Dr. Webhi will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the merger between Human Services and the Health department and its affect on Tribal relations.

Governor Burgum recognized Trooper Erin Quinn and the work being done with Tribes on law enforcement and the safety of all citizens of North Dakota. The ND Highway Patrol has an opioid response group which will share insights on the issues and will meet with each Tribe and Trooper Quinn will be the contact. Chairman Fox acknowledge the efforts of Erin and Jenna in their outreach and what they do, joint law enforcement services, seen at other events, and great emissaries for the state.

## **New Business**

Governor Burgum announced Attorney General Drew Wrigley would not be in attendance due to a conflict with his schedule. He will be invited to a future meeting.

### **North Dakota Industrial Commission Overview and Grant Opportunities – Deputy Director Reice Haase; North Dakota Transmission Authority, Director John Weeda**

Deputy Director Haase shared an informational PowerPoint on opportunities for partnerships as well as grant funding available to North Dakota Tribes. The presentation gave an overview of the ND Industrial Commission and the various responsibilities for the commission. He highlighted the various programs and emphasized the fact that Tribes are eligible for all the programs outlined. He focused on several projects that are of great importance and asked the

Tribes to reach out to discuss their participation. He urged Tribes to contact their office and discuss grant opportunities.

John Weeda discussed the transmission authority and the watch over the region for issues arising. He asked for input from Tribes so that there is a good working relationship and the issues concerning the grid vulnerability for all. IAAJ has a formula and the possibility of exploring cosponsoring a grant, but the DOJ only wants Tribal applications. The information was shared and the deadline is September 30, 2022.

Questions by Governor Burgum on pricing concerns and asked about implications and Mr. Weeda response was not panic, but prudent. The congestion in North Dakota those generating wind power are facing because of lack of transmission avenues, negative coal plant prices last summer and the effect on the grid. Clarification on negative pricing was explained further and how it affects companies. Chairman Fox comments/questions North Dakota power generation is excessive to what is needed in the state, and the assumption how much we can generate far outweighs our needs today. North Dakota has typically been an exporter of electricity but has declined; the demand North Dakota for in-state has continued to grow. North Dakota is a great state for wind generation and neighboring states are very anxious to use that resource. The larger export was due to the customers that contracted for the power. Chairman Fox mentioned on MHA's desire to create wind power projects and generate a supply. The continued decrease of wind power export and need for more power in the state are an area that needs addressing. Questions on the shutting down of power and how they are being handled, i.e. carbon footprints and gas fire shutdowns.

## **Agency Updates**

### **Department of Water Resources – Andrea Travnicek, Director**

An overview of the agency was given, and a PowerPoint (attached at the end of the minutes) was shared with the commission. Ms. Travnicek informed the group about Heritage Funds that have been approved for the Crows Flies High area. The Strategic Plan, mission statement, and goals were outlined in the presentation and will be implemented within the next five years. It was clarified that the mission statement reference to residents of the State include all people which includes Tribal members.

Motion made by Chairman Fox, 2<sup>nd</sup> by chairman Alkire upon recommendation from Director Davis to appoint Bradley Hawk to the Brain Injury Advisory Council

Member	Yes	Absent/no
Dr. Viola LaFontaine	x	
Chairman Jamie Azure	x	
Chairman Mark Fox	x	
Chairwoman Alkire	x	
Chairman Delbert Hopkins, Jr.		x
Erica Thunder		x
Dr. Leander McDonald		x
Chairman Douglas Yankton		x
Governor Doug Burgum	x	

## **Tribal Leader Updates**

### **Spirit Lake Tribe**

Chairman Douglas Yankton

### **Standing Rock Sioux Tribe**

Chairwoman Janet Alkire statewide reservation meeting for law enforcement on August 25, 2022, with no MOU in place at this point and a lot of education is needed for people of the nation, this is the start. Silent platoon drill thanks to Chairman Fox.

### **Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation**

Chairman Mark Fox, September 7 gaming. Law enforcement agreement in war against illegal drugs, energy development, pipelines, bit0, data processing, hydrogen projects, gas capture, alcohol tax agreement, back to school event today, children, parents, drill team event on august 30, thanks to governor, staff, for meeting and work involved in the process and the reinstatement

### **Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa**

Chairman Jamie Azure, thanks to ????, MOU boarding school gravesites, townhall community meetings with election season, jurisdiction issues, what border means, checkboard system, racial profiling questions, industrial commission interesting

### **Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate**

No one in attendance

### **Commission Member Updates:**

Dr. LaFontaine Indian education summit in July, commendation to Lucy Fredericks and DPI, DPI target assisted and comprehensive assisted health, commend commission on having representation for the head injury group, limited services for head injury patients and family and the need for such services and education,