

North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission
North Dakota State Capitol
600 E. Blvd Ave, Room 327B
Bismarck ND 58505

November 17, 2022
1:00 pm
TEAMS Meeting/In Person

Opening prayer was given by Chairman Yankton

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m.

Roll Call

Member	Present	Absent
Chairman Douglas Yankton	X	
Vice-Chair Frank Jamerson	X	
Chairwoman Janet Alkire		X
Alysia Lacounte – Legal Counsel, Turtle Mountain Representative	X	
Chairman Jamie Azure		X
Chairman Mark Fox	X	
Chairman Delbert Hopkins, Jr.		X
Dr. Leander McDonald		X
Dr. Viola Slater	X	
Erica Thunder	X	
Governor Doug Burgum	X	
Nathan Davis, Executive Director	X	

Other Attendees

Marietta Kemmet, Executive Assistant ND Indian Affairs
Brad Hawk, Deputy Director, ND Indian Affairs
Sgt. Jenna Clawson-Huibregtse, North Dakota Highway Patrol
Trooper Erin Quin, North Dakota Highway Patrol
Tammy Miller, COO Governor's Office
John Reiten, Policy Advisor, Governor's Office
Ryan Norrell, General Counsel, Governor's Office
Dave Krabbenhoft, Director Department of Corrections
Thomas Erhardt, Parole and Probation Director
Cynthia Monteau, MHA Nation

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by Erica Thunder, as submitted for August 24, 2022, meeting. Chairman Yankton seconded. Voice vote, motion approved.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Governor Doug Burgum

Congratulations to Chairman Jamie Azure and Chairman Mark Fox on their re-election and new council members across the state. The pandemic continues to be an issue. The Recovery Reinvented conference

showed mental health and recovery are and will continue to be an important issue within the state. Special thanks to those in attendance in person and on-line. Gratitude to Teliea Baker, MHA, who is the director of The Door Recovery Lodge, keynote speaker who shared her journey through recovery. Thanks were given to all those who spoke and shared their stories.

Director Nathan Davis

Commissioner Davis updated the commission on issues pertinent to the office. He recently attended the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC). During a discussion with the Public Coastal and Tribal Land committee they expressed the difficulty in engaging with tribal perspective and tribal partners and asked for assistance in connecting with the Tribes to grow economic development. Commissioner Davis will be coordinating with the Tribes, North Dakota Highway Patrol, DES, and DOT to open dialogs for future weather emergencies. He attended an event "Grayson" which encourages donor registration through Tribal ID's. A hold was announced for June 11th and 13th, 2023 for the Government-to-Government conference. NDDOT has been in contact with our office to coordinate road maintenance training. The BCI is looking to place 3 additional agents in and around reservations in relation to drug task enforcement. The ND Indian Scholarship funds were reduced in 2018 and this bill request will raise the amount allotted. Commissioner Davis asked to put an option on the table to have an emergency meeting if needed during session.

Brad Hawk

Updates in the health care field included preparation for session, including behavioral health. One is the community health worker bill and how it will affect the Tribes. The strategic plan for the Behavioral Health board and the interaction with liaisons. Oral health is another issue that is being explored with a network called Smiles Network. They do work overseas but are looking to partner with tribes on these issues.

New Business

Drew Wrigley, Attorney General

Expressed appreciation for invitation to meet with the Board and extended a welcome door policy to all Tribes and offered his assistance and advice on their questions. He shared the recent issue of e-tabs in "bars" and what needs to be done to rectify the situation. He outlined his background working with both the Federal and State governments. The concerns of drug enforcement and the work that is being done and still needs to be done. Those in attendance all agree that the drug issues facing the state will not go away and needs to be aggressively attacked. Discussion for having a meeting solely dedicated to drug enforcement issues.

Dr. Nizar Webhi, Department of Health and Human Services

The integration of the Department of Human Services and the Health Department was shared with the Board. The merging of the two units has been an ongoing process and continues to proceed forward, he outlined the steps for integration.

Tribal Leader Updates

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

Alysia Lacounte, representing Chairman Jaime Azure, reported on the projects currently underway. Exploring a hemp operation with Spirit Lake, relationships with businesses in Fargo for manufacturing the products. Construction projects include a Youth Home, like Spirit Lake, water park, and a trampoline

park. The tribe will be requesting legislation on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) amid the sense the Supreme Court will be gutting the law. The food distribution center will be a commodity warehouse with USDA commodities, there is a meal-on-wheels and two food pantries on the reservation Discussion on tax agreements with the State Tax Commissioner, the drug task force was discussed, and the issues risen in opposition to drug enforcement. The tax agreement will focus on alcohol and tobacco will be secondary.

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

Vice-Chair Frank Jamerson shared events affecting the Tribe. The hospital situation and justice center continue to be top priorities at Standing Rock. The drug problem and how to handle the issue was addressed earlier and they will be reaching out to others for assistance. Senator Cramer's office toured the area of the housing on Standing Rock. A recent trip to Denver to discuss the issue of law enforcement funding and personnel. The Casino is under new management, still owned by Standing Rock and plans are to create a destination vacation place. Progress has been made with two non-profit entities for funding on economic development or improvements to the land. Working with Standing Rock Community Development Corporation for improvements to the reservation that will be a benefit for all members. Housing development is a key issue in this improvement plan. Hemp growing and the possibility of introducing it on the reservation for economic development. Wind development, slow steady progress, hopefully will begin soon. Meeting with individuals on a technology to determine mineral resources underneath the ground. Carbon credits and usage are in a discussion phase with a company interested in the process. The need for a group home expansion is hindered by the guidelines set forth and contribute to this short fall. The Lake Oahe group home, south of the casino, is quite beautiful, and a search is in the process for additional funding for further development. Lack of personnel is an issue and without the home open, children are placed with Child Protection Services.

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate

No one in attendance or on-line.

Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation

Chairman Mark Fox thanked the governor for his congratulations and commended the governor and the first lady's office for the recovery reinvented conference recently completed. He talked about the racism, violence and hate crimes that is rising across the nation and encouraged the people in the state to become involved to deal with these issues. The Medicare/Medicaid IMD waiver is in process and are asking for approval that will allow for the treatment of more than 16 people at a time because of the requirements. The treatment cost is borne by the Tribe and with the waiver it will allow for the treatment of more individuals. Right now, they are only able to treat tribal members, with the waiver they will be able to expand the numbers and eventually treat non-tribal members as well. The waiver will allow billing to private insurances to help cover the cost of treatment. Asking why the delay and with the delay members are sent out of state, but then want to return to the state to complete treatment. The recidivism rate nationwide is 85-90%, Good Road Recovery is seeing less than 10% recidivism. The second issue concerns events that occurred in the Spring of 2022 Veterans Affairs training. Economic development support is critical considering the state gaming expansion. The only revenue for most tribes is gaming and if gaming expansion continues the tribes will need increased support to cover the losses suffered. The upcoming legislative session will focus on the alcohol taxation agreement in

addition to other economic issues. Discussion focused on the vendors and their unwillingness to obey the laws on Indian Land.

Spirit Lake Tribe

Chairman Douglas Yankton shared different projects ongoing at Spirit Lake, one highlighted was the healing village site and the parties involved. It will be a group home but will be a healing village using cultural related activities and opportunities for parents to reconnect. The belief is knowing the history of the people is effective. Working with the BIA on contract 638 programs, get drug task force off the ground, housing projects and working with state programs. Chairman Yankton will be in Washington, D.C. to address various issues affecting Spirit Lake as well as the other Tribes in North Dakota. There is a need for help with the Veterans on tribal lands as a landing spot to gather.

Commission Member Updates:

Commissioner Erica Thunder thanked everyone for attending the meeting and shared her activities regarding presentations at UND Law school. She explained her new role working for the Department of Corrections as the Director of Diversity and Cultural Competency and the cultural programs she is striving to implement. She invited chairs to have a tour of the facilities as their schedules would allow. She is looking for culturally based items to enforce the culture in the facilities. She introduced William Mooney, he greeted the group and briefly introduced himself.

Vice-Chair Jamerson mentioned how the tribes in South Dakota have created liaison within their reservation to help with transitioning and re-connecting, reentry into society. He suggested this possibility for North Dakota tribes.

Commissioner Viola Davis thanked the governor for the opportunity to be on the commission and for supporting education on the reservations. The opportunities are endless and mentioned the concern regarding teacher shortage. Culture is also an area that needs addressing.

Governor Burgum suggested instead of two separate presenters, a meeting should be focused solely on education.

Meeting adjourned 4:58 pm

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) Dr. Wehbi presentation to members along with Tribal Health Liaison names and a clearer outline of what can be utilized by those off reservation for assistance from HHS
- 2) Camp Grafton training academy for BIA officers
- 3) Veteran affairs training incident narrative letter from MHA