

North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission
MHA Tribal Headquarters
307 5th Avenue
New Town ND

November 20, 2023
1:00 pm
TEAMS/In Person

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:33p.m. by Lt. Gov. Tammy Miller and thanks were extended to Chairman Fox for hosting.

Opening prayer was given by Harriet Good Iron

Roll Call

Member	Present	Absent
Chairwoman Lonna Jackson-Street	xx	
Chairwoman Janet Alkire	xx	
Chairman Jamie Azure		xx
Chairman Mark Fox	xx	
Chairman J. Garret Renville		xx
Dr. Leander McDonald		xx
Dr. Viola Slater	xx	
Erica Thunder	xx	
Brad Hawk, Interim Executive Director	xx	
Lt Gov Tammy Miller, Governor's Designee	xx	

Other Attendees

Marietta Kemmet, Executive Assistant ND Indian Affairs
John Reiten, Policy Advisor, Governor's Office
Anthony Bauer, Economic & Workforce Development Specialist, ND Indian Affairs
Wilberta Red Tomahawk, Standing Rock Sioux District Representative

Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Chairwoman Janet Alkire to approve the agenda for today's meeting, seconded by Chairwoman Lonna Jackson-Street. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Erica Thunder to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2023, meeting, seconded by Dr. Viola Slater. Motion Approved

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Lt. Governor Tammy Miller

Comments included the resignation of Nathan Davis as Executive Director and Brad Hawk has been appointed interim director. She asked that the position notification be shared with any interested applicants and the intent is to have the position filled by the end of the year.

Brad Hawk – Interim Executive Director

Tribal Health directors will be meeting at the end of the month; discussion will center on Medicaid policy changes. There will be further discussion on assisting behavioral health councils on the strategic plans. Studies that came out of the legislative session are being tracked to ensure progress is being made in the right direction.

Anthony Bauer- Economic and Workforce Development Specialist

Anthony reported on the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses initiative and continued promotion of Tribal entrepreneurship is ongoing. A brief explanation of the initiative was shared with the members. Work is being done with Brian Newby and Kuldip Mohanty on the Broadband Equity Access Deployment (BEAD) working closely with Chairman Fox and his office. The process is ongoing at UND for the return of the Tribal remains to our homes. The North Dakota Development fund continues, and the goal is to diversify the program. The Cerilon Program, gas to liquid, progresses and the main issue is providing workforce for the program. The Economic and Workforce Development continues to be very busy. Working with Dunseith and securing funding for an ambulance to serve the needs of the area.

New Business

Dave Glatt, Director, Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. Glatt gave a brief background of his position and department. Mr. Glatt spoke on the progress of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (PowerPoint attached). The request was for input and viewpoints from each of the Tribes. Spirit Lake, Turtle Mountain, and Mandan Hidatsa Arika (MHA) have all applied for the grants. The process, input received, and implementation of the program was communicated with the members. A form was handed out for individuals with questions that will help generate ideas and suggestions. The possible differences between the State's plan and the Tribal plans were discussed. Project Tundra, now known as Dakota Carbon Capture, proposed carbon capture and sequestration project to be located at the Minnkota Power Plant near Center North Dakota is close to being permitted. Discussion centered on the various programs, projects, grants, and research council opportunities. Rich Garman, Department of Commerce, stressed the need for an agricultural sequestration payment to align more with the programs currently in place. effect

Jason Ehlert, President North Dakota Building Trades Union;; Iman Moore, Grant Director, Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College

Introductions and a brief outline of their purpose was shared with members of the group. The Dakota Prairie Apprenticeship Readiness Program (PowerPoint attached) was explained and the goal to open the door for more Native Americans involvement into building trades. Several goals were highlighted to show each step into the program and how it will be implemented.

Tom Erhardt, Director, North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Parole and Probation Division

Introductions were given with members in the audience. A brief overview of Parole and Probation was shared with the members of the Commission. Mr. Erhardt is proposing a collaboration between the Tribes and State Law Enforcement pertaining to the items outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding being presented at the meeting (Draft copy attached). Some concerns raised were the possible violation of probation/parole when individuals are sent out-of-state for treatment and rehab.

Brad Hawk, Deputy Director

The previous Strategic Plan (attached) was shared with the Commission and suggestions on the updates to the strategic plan were requested. Goals, action items, resources required, and the measurable outcomes were all discussed with comments and input from those in attendance. North Dakota Indian Affairs office is currently working with other State Agencies to update our Strategic Plan in the spring.

Comments included appreciation from Chairman Fox on the steps being taken to address both the long term and short-term plans. Lt. Governor added comments including steps taken after each legislative session addressing issues that need to be worked on for the next session. An outline was given on the Strategic Plan review done with each agency and the Governor's office in the spring. Lt. Governor Miller asked Tribes for any large topics that are of concern that can be brought up in the State of State address in 2024.

Tribal Leader Updates

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

Chairwoman Alkire shared the program announcement by Governor Burgum on the community based for elders to stay at home. Another issue is a need for a regional hospital or a veteran's hospital to help ease the difficulty in getting veterans to Fort Mead for care. An elder care center is a need, addiction and behavioral health are also concerns. Emergency planning is also needed, law enforcement and the MOU's and helping tribal members understanding the need for the agreements. Department of Transportation has been doing an excellent job and have been very helpful for 1806 and Hwy 6, two of the bridges have been named.

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate

No one was in attendance.

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

No one was in attendance.

Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation (MHA)

Chairman Fox introduced several members of his Team. Expressed gratitude for those in attendance and for the chance to host the meeting. The issue of the remains on the campus of UND is still very concerning and that it has not been resolved is very frustrating. He urged a faster resolution to the situation and the end of the remains being held by the campus. Lt. Governor responded the issue will be brought up with the University of an expedited resolution.

The waiver for treatment facility to increase the number of people who can be treated was addressed and the frustration to not have it approved and in place. Chairman Fox did say an affirmation letter from the Interior Department has been received that reaffirms the Tribes authority to regulate water within their boundaries and includes allotted lands as well. Discussion between Commissioner Andrea Travenick, State Water Department, centered on issues of water usages and eligibility of tribes for water funding.

The issue of charging a sales tax to tribal members on the reservation by merchants doing business. This is an indirect taxation issue.

Spirit Lake Tribe

Chairwoman Street updates included the push for a language curriculum, a new school is needed as the number of students has exceeded the capacity of the current school. The need for building trades is an urgent need. There is a need for a dialysis unit for Spirit Lake as currently patients need to travel to Bismarck or Fargo. Dental assistance and practitioners are always a concern and the ruralness of the locations is a barrier to recruitment. Education and scholarship availability is another area of need.

Lt. Governor Miller supplied an answer to legislation passed concerning law enforcement. She reported a \$3.5 million grant to be used for retention and recruiting and \$750,000 must be used for local law enforcement agencies with ten or fewer employees. She will research if tribal communities will be eligible for this funding.

Commission Member Updates

Commissioner Slater gave updates and comments on issues that concern her, education being the most important in her belief. She has contacted Superintendents on the reservations to survey what they felt was the most important needs on reservations regarding education. Teacher shortage, counselors are top of the list. Some schools have filled this need with teachers from the Philippines and this creates another issue with the teachers having to learn the culture of the Tribes in addition to teaching the children. Barriers for recruitment are the rural setting and so some recruits may not be the cream of the crop and the attendance of the children themselves. Staff shortage is not just teachers, it extends to paraprofessionals, bus drivers, cooks, custodians, it is across all positions. She asked for any input on how to recruit teachers, encourage students to become students and any other suggestions on how to handle the shortage. Regarding the Strategic Plan shared she felt that the Teacher Shortage needs to be addressed, what program can be put into place to address the issue?

Commissioner Thunder has had discussion with Department of Corrections to create a better path for entry for Tribal citizens and breaking the recidivism cycle. Some of the issues being addressed were highlighted and the steps being taken to try and address issues faced by Tribal citizens.

Final comments

Commissioner Slater shared a benchmark testing has resulted in an excellent progress report. Commissioner Thunder thanked Chairman Fox for hosting the group and commented on the beautiful facility and the progress being made with DOCR goals. Chairwoman Alkire thanked Chairman Fox for hosting and expressed appreciation for the meetings with fellow Commission members. The interaction with the Governor is very valuable and much appreciated as it is different on the South Dakota side. Chairwoman Street thanked Chairman Fox for hosting and for the opportunity to discuss tribal needs. Chairman Fox shared the success of the medical campus, the diabetes center, the activity at the casino including the hotel/dining room, water park, the riverboat, a new school at White Shield, Twin Buttes, Mandaree's community building, elderly living center expansion, veteran's day celebration are a few of the positive activities. Lt Governor Miller shared gratitude and expressed thanks for Chairman Fox for hosting the meeting. The next meeting time/place will be shared within a few weeks with the group.

Meeting adjourned 5:19 pm