

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

June 24, 2024  
10:00 am

### **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 10:25 am by Lt. Governor Tammy Miller

Opening prayer by Dr. Leander McDonald

### **Roll Call**

Member	Present	Absent
Chairwoman Lonna Jackson-Street	XX	
Chairwoman Janet Alkire – Kendrick Eagle (designated by Chairwoman Alkire)	XX	
Chairman Mark Fox		XX
Chairman J. Garret Renville		XX
Chairman Jamie Azure - joined at 12:30 pm	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 – joined meeting at 1:15 pm	XX	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

### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda was made by Dr. Leander McDonald, 2nd by Dr. Viola Slater, approved as presented.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Dr. Leander McDonald to approve minutes from February 28, 2024, meeting with suggested revisions, seconded by Dr. Viola Slater. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- **Lt. Governor Tammy Miller:** Welcomed attendees and expressed anticipation for the presentations and gratitude.
- **Brad Hawk, Executive Director:** Welcomed members and introduced new team member **Melinda Padilla Lynch**, who shared her background.

- **Upcoming G2G Conference:** Outline of topics to be discussed.
- **Hall of Honor:** Update on nominees and project status.

## Updates from Leadership

- **Anthony Bauer, Deputy Director:** Provided updates on several key projects and issues:
  - **UND Reparations:** Efforts related to reparations.
  - **Workforce Barriers in Tribal Areas:** Identifying and addressing challenges.
  - **Hall of Honor:** Status update.
  - **Unemployment on Tribal Lands:** Discussion of challenges with accurate unemployment reporting.
  - **Legislative Bills Impacting Tribal Entities:** Overview of relevant bills.
  - **Water Issues in Trenton:** Addressing concerns in this area.
  - **Fraud in Treatment Area:** Identified ongoing fraud problems.
  - **Gas Capturing:** Efforts related to energy efficiency and resource capture.
  - **Missing Indigenous People:** Updates on this important issue.
  - **UTTC 50th Anniversary:** The 50-year milestone for United Tribes Technical College.

## New Business

- **Project Tundra Presentation by Craig Bleth (VP, Project Development, Minnkota Power Cooperative):**
  - Overview of **Project Tundra:** Development details, growth, challenges, and financing were shared.
  - **PowerPoint Presentation:** Detailed insights into the project's progress and development.

## Workforce – Pat Bertagnolli, Executive Director, Job Service North Dakota

- **Presentation Highlights:**
  - Focused on workforce programs, strategic outreach, strengthening partnerships, and efforts to improve North Dakota's labor market.
  - Key projects include the Student Ambassadors Program, tribal outreach, statewide labor market report for 2024, and advocating for students and the workforce.
  - Chairman Fox raised concerns about the accuracy of unemployment data.

## New Rule of Non-Indian Prosecution – Ladd Erickson, McLean County States Attorney

- **Legal Update:**
  - Discussed the impact of the **McGirt v. Oklahoma** decision on jurisdiction for crimes involving non-Indians and Native Americans in Indian Country.
  - Raised concerns about the potential for justice gaps due to jurisdictional complexities between Tribes and state/local authorities.

## Tribal Leader Updates

1. **Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa (Chairman Jamie Azure)**
  - **Community Development:** New childcare services, foster care facility, roundhouse cultural center, water park, trampoline park, and a new tech business.
  - **Concerns:** Water supply issues at Trenton and request for assistance with the IMB waiver for Medicare to exceed 16 beds.
  - **Youth Engagement:** Over 550 youth engaged in community initiatives.
2. **Spirit Lake Tribe (Chairwoman Jackson-Street)**
  - **Community Projects:** Homeless shelter, \$7M fun center, renovations at Sioux Manufacturing, and a new education center at Cankdeska Cikana Community College.
  - **Housing:** Purchase of 38 homes with ARPA funds and plans to buy 38 more.
  - **Concerns:** SNAP program issues, county tax problems, and recruitment of members by treatment centers without proper channels.
3. **Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (Kendrick Eagle)**
  - **Key Projects:** Land acquisition for an airport, greenhouse with solar energy, and Smile Network dental services.
  - **Other Updates:** Growing number of BIA officers on the reservation, and the 50th anniversary of the International Indian Treaty Council celebrated at the Grand River Casino.
4. **Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation (Chairman Mark Fox)**
  - **Economic Development:** Gas capture, hydrogen development, new dialysis and veteran centers, family fun center, tourism enhancements, and new hotel construction.
  - **Concerns:** Issues with the tax status of trust land revenues and disqualification of applicants seeking assistance.
5. **Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate**
  - No representative present for an update.

## At-Large Commission Member Updates

1. **Dr. Leander McDonald:**
  - **Tribal Leader Summit:** Encouraged participation in the upcoming summit.
  - **Tribal Education:** Discussed challenges with data access for Tribal Colleges.
2. **Dr. Viola Slater:**
  - **Water Issues:** Raised concerns about water supply problems in Trenton, with the City of Williston potentially terminating service to residents.
  - **Rural Education:** Highlighted the success of Rural Education Associations and efforts supporting Native schools.
3. **Eric Thunder:**
  - Not in attendance, no report.
4. **Sarah Jones:**
  - **Great North Innocence Project:** Reported on the organization's work in providing free legal services for wrongfully convicted individuals in North

Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Since 2001, 11 people have been released due to wrongful convictions.