

**Nevada Indian Commission  
Board Meeting Minutes**

*Monday, May 6, 2019*

Nevada Indian Commission Office, 5500 Snyder Ave., Carson City, NV 89701

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Seat Filled</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Richard Arnold, Chairman	Native American Representative	X	
Kostan R. Lathouris, Vice-Chair	Native American Representative	X	
Lori Pasqua	Native American Representative	X	
Brian Wadsworth	Native American Representative	X	
Kelly Krolicki	General Public Representative	X	

NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Sari Nichols, Program Officer 1, Nevada Indian Commission; Chris Ann Gibbons, Curator, Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum; and Diane Buckley, Administrative Assistant 3, Nevada Indian Commission.

Others Present: Greg D. Ott, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General; Marla Williams, Strategies 360; Michon Eben, Tribal Cultural Resource Officer, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony; Sandra Mitrovich, Outreach and Retention Coordinator Indigenous Student Services, University of Nevada Reno; Larry Burton, Photographer, Great Basin Native Artists; Brad Crowell, Director, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Jim Lawrence, Deputy Director, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Rebecca Palmer, Administrator, State Historic Preservation Office; Clifford Banuelos, EPA Director, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada; Marty Meeden, Educational Director, Washoe Tribe of NV and CA

**I. Convene Meeting, Roll Call of Members, and Establish Quorum**

The meeting convened at 1:05pm. Director Rupert took the roll, and determined a quorum of five Commissioners present.

**II. Invocation**

Commissioner Wadsworth provided the invocation.

**III. Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Arnold welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

**IV. Initial Public Comment**

There were no initial public comments at the meeting.

**V. Chairman and Commissioner Announcements/Reports**

Commissioner Pasqua thanked Director Rupert for all the years she had been leading the Nevada Indian Commission, keeping everything in order, and the work she has done to open the new Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum.

Chairman Arnold expressed his thoughts on the years that Director Rupert has lead the Nevada Indian Commission and thanked her for everything that she has accomplished.

Director Rupert thanked the Board of Commissioners for all the support they have given her. She expressed her feelings about the changes that have occurred over the past years and where the Nevada Indian Commission is going. She commented on bringing the awareness of the Tribes in Nevada to the public view. She commented about the soon to be completed Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum.

## **VI. Consent Agenda**

### **A. Approval of March 13, 2019 and April 22, 2019 Nevada Indian Commission Meeting Minutes**

There were no comments on the March 13, 2019 and April 22, 2019 meeting minutes.

### **B. Executive Director and Staff Report**

There were no comments about the Executive Director and Staff Report.

### **C. Stewart Advisory Committee Report**

There were no comments about the Stewart Advisory Committee Report.

### **D. Approval of Stewart Advisory Committee Appointment of Representative Forms for Ron Bodnar and Aletha Tom**

There were no comments about the Stewart Advisory Committee Appointment of Representative Forms for Ron Bodnar and Aletha Tom.

### **E. Indian Education Advisory Committee Report**

There were no comments about the Indian Education Advisory Committee Report.

**Commissioner Wadsworth made a motion to approve the March 13, 2019 and the April 22, 2019 meeting minutes, The Executive Director Staff Reports, The Stewart Advisory Committee Report, The Stewart Advisory Committee Appointment of Representative Forms for Ron Bodnar and Aletha Tom, and The Indian Education Advisory Committee Report. Seconded by Kelly Krolicki. The motion carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.**

## **VII. Indian Territory Report of Projects and Activities, Sari Nichols, Secretary/Treasurer, Nevada's Indian Territory**

Sari Nichols presented the Indian Territory Report information that was not in the written report given to the Commissioners. She focused on the highlights of the report. She reported that Larry Burton, photographer was honored at the Fallon Rural Roundup in April with the "Voluntourism Award." She introduced Michon Ebon as the new Chair of the Nevada's Indian Territory.

The Indian Territory received a grant for a new website for all tribal powwows and tribal events. This website will list all tribal owned businesses in Nevada. This website will be free advertisement for tribal owned businesses. The name of the website [www.nevadapowwows.com](http://www.nevadapowwows.com).

The Reno -Tahoe International Airport has exhibit space that Indian Territory is trying to obtain. This space is in the waiting area that is currently being occupied by the GSR (Grand Sierra Resort). Indian Territory is working with the airport manager and the marketing manager. Airport management showed the Indian Territory another space near the baggage area. Indian Territory is interested in the premium space occupied by the GSR. They are working with the GSR to get the space ready to be reoccupied once GSR pulls out of the current space.

## **VIII. Update on Completion of Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum – Chris Gibbons, Curator II, Stewart Indian School Cultural Center Museum, Nevada Indian Commission**

Chris Gibbons provided updates on the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum project. They have reviewed two batches of proofs for the exhibit, which includes text and photos. The work on the batches continues this week.

The artwork for the Museum has been finalized. There was a start-up meeting with the fabricators (Pacific Studio) in April. They are working on I-Pad content which includes oral histories, student lists, and photos. Bobbi and Chris will meet with the fabricators to view and measure the final artifacts for the exhibit mounts.

The staff is working on the facility report that documents the environmental controls to meet Bureau of Indian Affairs standards for the loan agreement for the artifacts.

The staff is working with Henriksen-Butler on the design and plan for the furnishings that are not included in the exhibit budget.

The construction meetings are every Thursday afternoon. The construction completion is now set for mid-July. The fabrication completion will be the end of November.

The staff has been answering LCB (Legislative Council Bureau) questions regarding budget and AB44 as they come in.

The staff is working on Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum Plan of Operations documents and forms. They are also working on the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum strategic short-term and long-term Cultural Center planning.

Question asked: Where did the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum obtain the artifacts from? The artifacts that were originally here at Stewart are now housed at the Nevada State Museum. The Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum is doing a loan agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for some of these artifacts. The staff is working on getting permanent custody of the Stewart collection.

Question asked: What is the current size of the collection? There isn't an exact count, but it is estimated to be at least a couple of thousand artifacts and two to three thousand photographs. The artifacts are still sitting in the moving boxes that they were transported in back in 2001.

Commissioner Lathouris commented on the collection. He has a piece for the collection that he will be following up with Bobbi and Chris with.

Director Rupert congratulated Bobbi and Chris for the work that went into going through all the boxes of artifacts at the Nevada State Museum. They had to get all the artifacts cataloged and organized for the new exhibit for the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum. This includes all the work with the fabricators so that the exhibit will be complete.

Bobbi Rahder, Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum Director was congratulated for the creation of the new Cultural Center and making a dream, a reality.

Chairman Arnold commented on the evolution of the upcoming Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum and congratulated the staff.

## **IX. Presentation on Final Stewart Indian School Master Plan – Max Hershenow, H & K Architects**

Max Hershenow, H & K Architects was not in attendance. The Commissioners have the Master Plan that he provided for the meeting. Chairman Arnold wants the Commissioners to review the Master Plan as received. If there are any questions, they will have Mr. Hershenow back at a future date.

Director Rupert explained the components that went into the Master Plan which included the challenges when working with all the State of Nevada agencies. She offered that the Commission look at ways to make this process easier for future endeavors here at the Stewart Facility. She spoke about having a balance between the Indian Commission side and the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum side of operations.

Question asked: Is this position still on the table for the Indian Commission through the Legislature? There are two positions requested in AB44. In SB59, there was a fiscal note added by the Director of the Department of Tourism for an additional position. This has been tabled. It is uncertain if this will be approved this Legislative Session. An organizational chart was requested and will be furnished to the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Arnold commented about both sides of the Nevada Indian Commission. The Indian Affairs side and the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum side of operations. He called for a balance between both sides.

Director Rupert defended the time and effort put towards the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum side of operations. This has brought awareness and support to the Nevada Indian Commission.

Commissioner Pasqua would like the architect to come back and report to the Board of Commissioners. This action will be tabled until Mr. Hershenow can come back and discuss the Master Plan with the Board.

Question asked: Is there a problem in tabling this action till Mr. Hershenow can come back and meet with the Board? Director Rupert replied there are no ramifications in tabling this action until the next Board meeting. The plan is here for the Board to have clarity as to what is being proposed. These are the next steps for implementing the next steps to the plan.

Question asked: Will the architect make suggestions on priorities from the plan? Director Rupert replied the Master Plan is in phases. Phase one for the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum and the Welcome Center is the first phase which we are already deep into. The architect has other ideas in the plan as how best to proceed with other projects. These are the buildings that will bring revenue to the Nevada Indian Commission for future renovations to the Stewart campus. For example, the auditorium and the old gym which could be a large venue for events and conferences.

**Commissioner Pasqua made a motion to table the Master Plan until the next Board meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Krolicki. The motion carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.**

## **X. Unfinished Business**

### **A. Update on Tribal Meetings and Follow Up to Tribal Visits**

Director Rupert presented the contents of the enclosed table which has been updated since the previous presentation. She mentioned that the Lovelock Paiute Tribe has opened a Cannabis Distribution Center. The Tribe is putting all their time into this new store. The Tribe will not be submitting any new federal grants for the clean-up of their land at this time. The discussions regarding School District fees will be ongoing and they are being monitored by the Indian Education Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Lathouris commented on the Tribal meeting that he had attended with the Director. He commented on the information that the Director had laid out in the report.

Question asked: How is the Indian Commission looking at the lack of housing available at Ft. McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe? Director Rupert replied the tribe didn't ask the Indian Commission to look into the housing issue. They were just commenting about the housing issue.

The conversation included a summary about there not being enough housing for teachers to live and teach on the reservation. The students are being schooled through online resources. There are only twenty acres and much more space is needed. A comment was made about the Lovelock Paiute Tribe and the Ft. McDermitt Tribe which identified solutions for the existing problems. This is something that the Commission could assist with since these opportunities come from the state side. During a Cannabis meeting, a representative from the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe had spoken about the tribes working together to increase revenues through the growing of cannabis.

Commissioner Lathouris suggested having another metric to prioritize the approach of the Indian Commission.

### **B. Approval of Edits to National Historic Landmark Nomination Application for the Stewart Indian School**

Director Rupert reported on the Nomination Application. She made minor edits to the report. Commissioner Lathouris commented on the report and had concerns about some of the content in the application as the conditions for the students in 1980 weren't exactly bearable. When talking about the students, he wants to hear more about the student's experience, first hand when possible. He made reference to pages forty nine and fifty in the Nomination about the student's experience. He referenced the student's reaction to fear and pain. This had a negative impact to the Native people for generations after these things happened. He questioned the language. It would be appropriate to use oral histories from the student's accounts.

Chairman Arnold commented about the abuses that the Nomination laid out and gave his opinion on the matter.

### **C. Update on State Historic Preservation Office Implementation of Chapter 383 Protection of Indian Burial Sites**

Director Rupert introduced Brad Crowell, Director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) which reported on Chapter 383 and SB264 for the protection of Native Burial Rights. Mr. Crowell said he previously had discussions Director Rupert and others present about what expectations are from the Commission. Mr. Crowell admitted that when he first came aboard at Conservation and Natural Resources, he was not aware of cultural sensitivities. He could have handled them a lot better. He referenced the fiscal notes attached to both bills. He doesn't believe that in this case the fiscal notes attached to the bills are intended to kill them. He put a fiscal note on the bills for resources that don't currently exist. The amount of engagement that is needed to implement these bills cannot just be added to someone's current job duties. If this is added to someone's job duties, we won't meet the current expectations. He wants this to be kept in mind as the fiscal notes are being straightened out. Mr. Crowell mentioned that the new Executive Director will need to figure this all out. If there isn't an active Executive Director with the Commission, we won't have the expertise and guidance when working with the other cabinet level agencies. He sees the new Executive Director as the means to improving relationships between the tribes and state government. He believes that better communication will go a long way to improve many impasses they currently have.

In regard to SB244 from the previous session, he has been trying to sort through various conversations with Michon Eben, other staff members at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, and Director Rupert. He is trying to understand the expectations of SB244 and how to meet those expectations. He mentioned that Rebecca Palmer from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and made efforts to meet the goals of the legislation. He wants clarity as to what is needed, regulation or guidance. He doesn't understand what is missing in what SHPO has already done versus what is done in regulations.

Chairman Arnold commented that there has been an absence of meaningful dialog with tribes and soliciting input from the tribes. When you meet with the tribes, you have to know your audience and you have to know what their needs are. He doesn't believe this was achieved. There is a divide in the line of communication. Our best efforts are not acceptable. There is a lack of understanding. What the Board is hearing from several tribes is that they have requested something regulatory that all state agencies will need to follow in order to have clarity.

Mr. Crowell agreed. He hopes that the Commission will continue to play an active role in dialoging with the tribes on this issue. He mentioned that SHPO and the Commission take two different directions in their interaction with the tribes. There hasn't been any communication with the agencies working together on their responses to the tribes. He stated that it has been difficult in understanding the different view from all the tribes. He asked the Commission to play a role in assisting them with understanding how to communicate better with the tribes.

Chairman Arnold commented on the Commission's previous visits to the tribes as a forum for people to attend and provide input. This was one way to address the issue. There hadn't been any discussion from the agencies on how to collectively address this issue.

Commissioner Lathouris commented about the roles of the tribes. He asked Mr. Crowell if he was familiar with the approach and regulations of the Nevada State Museum. He asked Mr. Crowell to describe the difference between the collaboration and regulation for the Nevada State Museum and Conservation and Natural Resources. Commissioner Lathouris wants the Commissioners to have a basic understanding so they know where to start from first.

Mr. Crowell discussed a meeting Conservation and Natural Resources had with Michon Eben at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. The discussion included how SHPO implemented their outreach with the tribes in order to get feedback. Letters were sent out and they heard nothing back. He stated that no news meant it wasn't as big of a deal. (1:31:10)  
He learned that it was the exact opposite. He learned that if you send a letter to a tribe and they don't know who you are, you won't get a response. It is necessary for everyone to understand how both sides operate. He commented about which way to move forward with regulations. Now their agency is trying to understand from the Commission and the tribes what they would like to see in regulations.

Question asked for Ms. Palmer: Please describe the statute. Ms. Palmer replied there are two separate chapters of statute. Chapter 381 inserts a requirement to issue permits but provides no process. It is absolutely critical that there be regulations to implement that law. Chapter 383 is very different. It is more process based. It already has a process built into it. This states how to implement this law. There is nowhere else to go with Chapter 383 that isn't already in the law. Ms. Palmer had discussed the discovery of human remains with Peter Barton. What is necessary is to provide guidance to the public and tribal representatives on what this law already says. In Chapter 381 there is no process. It just issues permits. This was the purpose of creating regulations for Chapter 381. The Legislature had given the Division of Museums and History a person to help them develop the regulations and implement them. They did not give SHPO any funding to develop regulations or to implement them. She said its clear direction on how to address human remains.

Question for Ms. Palmer: Please describe the difference between the regulations under Chapter 381 and under Chapter 383.

Ms. Palmer replied, upon the completion, they will probably be very similar. The process outlined in Chapter 383 itself is complete and as robust as the regulations would be. She further explained that once the regulations are complete, the process will be similar. The difference itself is in statute.

Question asked: What are the different expectations when the process is the same? Mr. Crowell responded that the difference in the expectations is that the statute itself in SB244 has direction in two different sections. SB383 has all the components that a regulation would have. They put guidance in this bill to make sure everyone followed all the guidelines set in the statute. What would be the purpose of SB244 if it didn't add anything more to SB383? Ms. Palmer commented that SB244 didn't significantly change SB383. There were more elements added to it.

Question asked: What protections could SB383 afford any one tribe for the remains discovered on their land, from another tribe attempting to gain access to? Ms. Palmer responded that SHPO would weigh all the evidence and make a final decision.

Chairman Arnold asked, "If you or someone at the Legislature sent a letter out and you didn't get a reply, how you would proceed? He explained the way the tribes do business. They don't

operate the same way the state does. They don't have the same resources. He stated that the Nevada Indian Commission can serve as a conduit but doesn't replace the interactions that the tribes serve. They are responsible for communicating with state resources on their own. He asked what it will take to get both the tribes and SHPO working more efficiently together?

Mr. Crowell commented that this is as much the Indian Commission's responsibility as it is SHPO.

Commissioner Pasqua agreed that both agencies need to educate the tribes. She suggested having someone like Mr. Crowell or Ms. Palmer meet with the tribes and educate them on the communication process with state agencies.

Mr. Crowell responded that it would be beneficial for his agency to interface with all twenty-seven tribes. However, it isn't practical. He stated that he attended this meeting because he reached out to the Executive Director and the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, not because he was asked. He stated that he wished he had an Anna Camp at Conservation and Natural Resources, but he doesn't. He stated that if he had someone like that, he would have that person out on the road meeting with the tribes. He doesn't have the resources.

Chairman Arnold replied that the Museum didn't meet with all the tribes; they had regional meetings so that the tribes would have an opportunity to meet with the state within their geographical area.

Commissioner Krolicki commented that Ms. Camp wasn't necessarily successful. When the tribes come to a specific event, there are only a small percentage that show up. One thing that needs to be understood that you can walk away with is that tribes are sovereign nations. They have their own hierarchy with how they view themselves. They are their own government / nation.

Mr. Crowell asked the Indian Commission for guidance on interacting with the tribes. He said, "At what point do we move forward?"

Director Rupert explained how she played the intermediary between the tribe and a state agency by making the initial contact with the tribe. She commented on how she assisted the Nevada State Museum and invited Ms. Camp to visit the tribes with her. She believes that there is work to be done on both sides. She mentioned that the Nevada Indian Commission has a lack of resources as well. The Commission has five employees for the State of Nevada. There are only three people that can go out and meet with the tribes. This is one area in which the Indian Commission can improve. She has been asking for resources for the last three sessions. She likes AB264, it speaks about utilizing these resources to enhance the relationship between tribal government and state government. It is important to have these key people within the agencies to be on hand for this important work.

Commissioner Lathouris commented about having a designated person that would go out and interact with the tribes, but it may not be realistic with the current budget situation. He commented about consultation and how it might be more affective. He asked for a designated liaison for this specific purpose. As for the tribes it could be the Chairman if they have their own resources. If the tribes decide to spend their own resources.



Mr. Crowell mentioned that his department would approach this contact from a hierarchic standpoint. However, this may not be the approach to get the necessary success or response that is needed.

Commissioner Lathouris commented that there should be something formal in writing describing what consultation is. The tribes are doing the best that they can until something changes fiscally. There needs to be a process on who to notify.

Mr. Crowell asked to have something in writing to define what consultation is. To have regulations in Nevada it has to go through the Legislature to be approved. We could go through the process of regulations if it will delay the implementation that we are seeking.

Commissioner Lathouris commented that it takes a long time to establish trust with the tribes. It would be necessary to have something formalized when moving forward. He asked for Rebecca to describe what consultation is.

Ms. Palmer commented that the process is intended to ensure that tribes have the rights to determine what happens with the remains that are identified. If the remains are found under lawful activities then it falls in SB383. The property owner should be notifying the sheriff to determine if it is a crime scene or not. If not, the property owner can reach out to the tribal representative to resolve the issue.

Mr. Crowell commented that consultation would be defined by the Indian Commission.

Ms. Eben asked for the representative from the Attorney General's office to provide his perspective on SB383. She mentioned that the reason they moved forward with SB244 was to add values, traditions, and beliefs into the regulations. She mentioned that with SB383 SHPO would talk with the land owner and not the tribes. She believes that consultation creates regulation within the tribes. She mentioned that the SHPO staff travels throughout Nevada and do not meet with the tribes when they are out. She asked the SHPO leadership to go back to Chairman Melendez's letter he presented in the last Board meeting to see the cultural side of this issue.

Chairman Arnold commented that there is still ambiguity between the state and the tribes. He said, "Clearly correspondence is not consultation." He wants to move this issue forward and reconcile it.

Commissioner Pasqua asked to look at the law to see how the state agencies and the tribes can work together and be a part of SHPO and use tribal traditions.

Mr. Crowell mentioned that one of his deputies or himself would be willing to work with the Indian Commission on this issue to build relationships with the tribes. He offered that in the next Legislative session, there should be some serious thought given to extending the Indian Commission staff.

Mr. Banuelos, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) gave a brief prospective on the poor communication with the tribes and the need of a cultural specialist to assist. He urged the Commission to utilize the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada to do follow-up on this issue.

Ms. Eben was asked to assist in this process. The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony has an issue with SHPO right now in regards to the lack of consultation with their office.

The Indian Commission will address the SHPO issue with the assistance of the Attorney General's office and Commissioner Lathouris. This will start through a series of emails.

#### D. Update on 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Activities of the Nevada Indian Commission

Director Rupert handed out her report and presented the updates on her efforts with the Legislature. She combined her report for the update on the Legislative Session on item IX-D with her report on item X-C, the update on the status of the Executive Director Projects and Tasks. The Executive Director position announcement was posted on May 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be open through May 31<sup>st</sup>. All staff performance evaluations will be complete by the end of day May 8<sup>th</sup>. There are currently no vacancies in the staff positions. Fiscal year '20 and '21 budget requests will be decided by the Nevada Legislature by May 15<sup>th</sup>. AB44 has a fiscal note attached to it. This is the operating budget for the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum. It is currently unknown what positions were approved by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. AB44 is under exemption and doesn't have the same deadline as other bills do. Bobbi Rahder, Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum Director is keeping track of this process very carefully. Regarding the Capital Improvement Project, and collection storage space, there haven't been any additional questions from the Legislature. The plan is to have Brenda Nebesky, Interim Director for the Department of Tourism make any necessary presentations on behalf of the Nevada Indian Commission based upon the notes that Director Rupert is leaving for her.

In regard to SB59, the intent is to ensure that the proceeds received from the rental of Building and Grounds event space that has been assigned to the Nevada Indian Commission to be deposited in the Indian Commission Gift Fund and not the General Fund for further preservation of the Stewart Indian School. This bill was introduced in the Senate Government Affairs Committee and was passed to the Senate Finance Committee on April 29<sup>th</sup>. This bill will be passed through the Assembly but has not been scheduled for a Hearing. The bill is under exemption and doesn't have the same date restrictions.

Regarding AB264, it was being heard in Government Affairs committee and requires the Indian Commission to implement a policy that promotes collaboration between a State Agency and Indian Tribes and requiring the Governor to meet with leaders of Indian Tribes. It requires certain employees of State Agencies to receive training. This bill was introduced by Assemblywoman Sarah Peters, she has been working closely with Chairwoman Laurie Thom, Yerington Paiute Tribe, and Chairwoman Amber Torres, Walker River Paiute Tribe on this bill. The Nevada Indian Commission is the entity that works with Human Resource Management to provide training to new employees that will be working with tribes. This is something that the tribes are very adamant about when working with state agencies. This bill was introduced on April 11<sup>th</sup> and passed out of the Assembly Government Affairs Committee. It still needs to make its way through the Senate. This bill has several fiscal notes attached to it. This will affect some state agencies in some ways. It is important to enhance those relationships and have state agencies work more closely with the tribes. The Nevada Indian Commission is staying on track with this bill. It is the intent of the Governor's Office to empower the Nevada Indian Commission.

Commissioner Lathouris asked what role the Indian Commission has with a Bill Draft Request that hasn't been submitted or a bill that doesn't make it through the process. For example, two bills that talk about increased penalties for a person who vandalizes or destroys tribal property. What is the role of the Indian Commission? The Indian Commission monitors those and attends those hearings. Director Rupert said, "We testify as well, while remaining neutral."

Director Rupert updated the commission on the Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) and the Stewart Advisory Committee. The Director recommended that the new Executive Director continue moving forward with these Committees. The Indian Education Advisory Committee doesn't meet in the summer. The last meeting for the Indian Education Advisory Committee is May 7<sup>th</sup>, and they won't meet again until September. Director Rupert updated the Board on the upcoming Stewart Father's Day Powwow. The Indian Commission is on track with the timeline for the Powwow. Commissioner's Pasqua and Wadsworth have stepped up to take over as Co-Coordinator this year. Saundra Mitrovich and Fredina Drye-Romero, of the Indian Education Advisory Committee, have stepped up to assist this year too.

The draft regulations put on hold this Legislative session should be addressed by the new incoming Executive Director. This person will need to meet with State Lands, Public Works Division, and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to figure out what the Stewart Indian School coordinating agency means. How this is going to be implemented within our regulations. NIC brochure is in draft form which contains the information on the Commissioners and Executive Director. She recommended that this be completed sometime after the new Executive Director begins. Some Commissioners positions will expire this year, both Chairman Arnold and Commissioner Wadsworth.

In regard to the Strategic Plan, the Commissioners wanted to get together and have a retreat setting to brainstorm this plan.

The Nevada Department of Corrections lawsuits ongoing and is in regard to the regulation that talks about the religious activity of Native American inmates. This includes Sweat Lodges and instruments that are used. What the Department of Corrections had proposed wasn't going to work. The Indian Commission had made recommendations and sent a three page document to Corrections. The Department of Correction responded by saying that they wanted the Nevada Indian Commission to make the determinations on who is Native American and can be in these Sweat Lodges. The Indian Commission will not do this. The Department of Corrections ended up putting this in their regulation. The Indian Commission was informed through inmate correspondence. The Indian Commission and Director Rupert are being sued over this issue. She will make a brief report of the current standing in this issue and leave a file with all this information for the Board.

Director Rupert updated the commissioners on the internal controls which included the updates from Sari Nichols, Program Officer. She stated that the commission will be updating these controls soon.

## **XI. New Business**

### **A. Discussion and Development of Scoring Criteria for Applicants to the Position of Executive Director of the Nevada Indian Commission**

Director Rupert gave an update to the Commission on the rubric for her position, and the requested positions for the new Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum. There were no additional questions about the collection space for the new Cultural Center and Museum. This bill has not moved over to the Senate yet. Director Rupert spoke about the Executive Director's transition plan. Brenda Nebesky will be speaking to the legislature on behalf of NIC bills. AB264 was introduced by Assemblywoman Peters which is working with Chairwoman Thom, Yerington Paiute Tribe on this bill. She explained the goal for the Tribes in working with state agencies. This bill still has several fiscal notes attached to this bill. This would affect state agencies. It is important to have state agencies work with the Tribes.

The discussion continued with the format on the Executive Director interviewing process. It was determined that Commissioner Lathouris will go through up to thirty-five applications and screen them. Chairman Arnold, Commissioner Krolicki, and Commissioner Lathouris will invite a minimum of six applicants for an interview.

**Commissioner Wadsworth made a motion to appoint Commissioner Lathouris as a sub-committee of one to screen the applications for the Executive Director for the Nevada Indian Commission using the rubric. If there are more than thirty-five applications than we will appoint Commissioner Krolicki, Chairman Arnold and Vice-Chair Lathouris to be the sub-committee to review the applications and to invite a minimum of six applicants to interview, seconded by Commissioner Krolicki. The motion carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.**

### **B. Discussion and Development of the Process for Receiving and Evaluating Candidates**

After a brief discussion the Board called for a vote.

**Commissioner Lathouris made a motion to adopt the drafts to approve the Nevada Indian Commission Executive Director rubric with the first five categories being either zero, does not meet requirements, or five meets requirements, and everything else as written in the selection of the candidates invites to interview. Seconded by Commissioner Krolicki. The motion carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.**

### **C. Update on the Status of the Executive Director Projects and Tasks**

This has already been discussed previously.

## **XII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Director Rupert commented that there will be a special board meeting for the interviews of the new Executive Director. There will be another special board meeting to go through the selection of applicants for the sub-committee of three. The next regular board meeting will be in August.

Commissioner Krolicki asked what happens after Commissioner Lathouris goes through the applications and the final six have been determined. Will the Board be allowed to see those before the special board meeting? Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General replied that the Commission will communicate with H/R to get the candidates invited to interview. Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director will prepare the agenda with their names on it. The supporting documents for the meeting will have their resumes included. All questions will be submitted to State H/R before the interview. Director Rupert will provide questions from the last interview for Executive Director to the Board.

**XIII. Scheduling and Location of Next NIC Meeting**

The next meeting will be determined at a later date.

**XIV. Final Public Comment**

Larry Burton, photographer, asked the Board members to take a photo with the Executive Director immediately following the meeting.

**XV. Adjournment**

**Commissioner Lathouris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Wadsworth. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:18pm.**

Respectfully Submitted  
by  
Diane Buckley, Administrative Assistant  
Nevada Indian Commission