

Nevada Indian Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 4, 2021

9:30 AM

Meeting Location: Virtual via Zoom

Commissioners Present:

Kostan Lathouris – Vice-Chair
Brian Wadsworth – Commissioner
Kelly Krolicki – Commissioner
Staci Emm – Commissioner

Staff Present:

Stacey Montooth – Executive Director
Sari Nichols – Program Officer
Chris Gibbons, Curator for the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and
Museum

Others Present:

Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General
Richard Arnold, former Chairman of the Nevada Indian Commission
Nia Girma, Affordable Housing Advocate for the Nevada Housing Division
Fawn Hunter, Washoe County School District, Title 6 and IEAC Advisory Committee

Chair

Lance West, Elementary School Principal at Schurz
Melyssa Navis, Program Analyst, Washington Office of Travel Relations
Fred Wagner, Deputy Director for Nevada Department of Veterans Services
Jennifer Taylor, Deputy Director for the Office of Energy
Ryan Gershman, Nevada Division of Emergency Management
Fred Wagner, Deputy Director for Nevada Department of Veterans Services
Priscilla Costa, Tribal Liaison for the Director's Office at the DHHS
Chris Gibbons, Curator of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum
Janelle Gutierrez, Acting Chair for the Bi-State Tribal Natural Resources Committee
Charlotte Lang, Facilitator of Tech Summit
Jimmy John Thompson from Timbisha
Janet Davis from Pyramid Lake
Tammi Tiger, Las Vegas Indian Center
Clifford Banuelos, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
Dr. Gregory Smoak, American West Center at the University of Utah

I. Convene meeting, roll call, and establish quorum

Vice Chairman Kostan Lathouris convened the meeting. Director Montooth took roll call. Quorum was established.

II. Invocation

Vice Chairman Kostan Lathouris provided the invocation.

III. Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chairman Kostan Lathouris welcomed the many participants to the virtual meeting and then initiated the introductions for the Commissioners and others in attendance who wished to be introduced.

IV. Initial Public Comment

Fred Wagner, Deputy Director for Nevada Department of Veterans Services expressed his thanks for the Commission's work and said he hoped they would continue to support Native American veterans in all ways possible. He said that NDVS has authorized a new position, a Native American Veteran Program Manager and they are looking for good candidates. For further information, Mr. Wagner's email is wagarf@veterans.nv.gov.

Jennifer Taylor, Deputy Director for the Office of Energy thanked the Executive Director for her invitation to attend the Commission meeting and said she was honored to learn more about the NIC.

Ryan Gershman with the Nevada Division of Emergency Management said there was a job opening for their Public Health Travel Preparedness Coordinator. He said he would post a link for interested parties.

Priscilla Costa, Tribal Liaison for the Director's Office at the Department of Health and Human Services said the Department of Health and Human Services is hosting their Quarterly Tribal Consultation Meeting on October 13th, beginning at 9:30 AM. It will be a hybrid meeting with an in-person meeting option available. The meeting will also be available on Teams.

Lance West, Elementary School Principal at Schurz said he would like to see a land acknowledgment statement added and included in future Nevada Indian Commission Meeting Agendas and also have the NIC advocate for this important acknowledgement to be included in all future state meetings and committees. Mr. West said he would be hosting a speaker to provide historical cultural trauma training related to American Indian students and children on October 22nd and 23rd in Schurz. It is open to all community members, and teachers can receive eight hours of professional development recertification credit for their participation.

V. Approval of March 24, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Motion: Approve March 24, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes

By: Commissioner Krolicki

Second: Commissioner Emm

Vote: Motion passed unanimously with one spelling correction

VI. Executive Director Report – Stacey Montooth (For Discussion and Possible Action)

The Executive Director began her report with the topic of finances, including the Nevada Indian Commission Budget, and funding for the Stewart Cultural Center and Museum and the Gift Fund. She said their groups are practicing conscientious spending. For the 2021 Fiscal Year, the Nevada Indian Commission began with \$341,032 and had a remaining balance at the end of the year of \$4,465. That remaining money was the Out-of-State Travel budget line item, and that money could not be moved, and because of the pandemic, could not be spent.

The Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum prudently used their tax dollars. The ending balance for the Cultural Center was \$916.

Because Gift Fund monies are donated or obtained through grants, there are no hard deadlines for spending that money. The Gift Fund started the fiscal year with \$182,760 and they are looking to have another \$73,830 rollover.

Both the Nevada Indian Commission, as well as the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum are partially funded through the Department of Tourism. The funding comes to the Department of Tourism via hotel-motel room tax. The Nevada Indian Commission has a ballpark \$350,000 budget, with 75 percent coming from the State's General Fund. The balance, the other 25 percent, comes from tourism transfers. With the Cultural Center & Museum, it's a greater proportion -- 62 percent comes from the transfer of tourism dollars. Working with the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance and writing strong grants really helps to ensure that there will be funding no matter what the circumstances (i.e., a pandemic).

The Executive Director said this year they were able to have their first Tribal Summit, part of AB264, the consultation law. Part of that new legislation requires that the Governor meet with tribal leaders on an annual basis. During that inaugural meeting, Chair Torres, from the Walker River Paiute Nation, asked the Governor to support a comprehensive, culturally appropriate public service campaign to keep all tribal citizens, urban Indians, and everyone associated with Indian Country aware of COVID-19 mitigation measures. The public service awareness campaign included vaccination information and safety measures displayed on billboards and on social media.

The Cultural Center has continued to welcome visitors despite Covid limitations. The Nevada Indian Commission has worked through some of those limitations by having a 100 percent staff vaccination rate. The staff is giving presentations almost on a weekly basis. Besides ongoing presentations, the Center has also hosted the Great Basin

Native Basketweavers and sponsored the Orange Shirt Remembrance Run.

The Executive Director said the Legislative Session was “the most historic Legislative Session for Native Americans.” The best law for Indian people this last Session was the Fee Waiver, sponsored by Assemblywoman Anderson. Working with NSHE legislative leadership, all the extra-large costs that students encounter when they go to a public college or university in Nevada have been waived. Over 60 students at the University of Nevada Reno have taken advantage of the fee waiver and a dozen or so students from other universities have as well.

The pathway to eliminate mascots and sundowner sirens was also another legislative bill that garnered a lot of attention. There are three high schools and one middle school in the State of Nevada that use some kind of moniker associated with Indian Country for their high school mascots. With Assemblyman Watts’ leadership, schools now have a system in place to slowly, methodically remove those mascots, without a large financial impact to each of the respective schools or school districts. The sundowner siren in Minden was eliminated through this legislation.

The legislators added protection for Swamp Cedars, an area of the indigenous territories of the Shoshone and the Goshute people. Those protections also came in the form of Resolutions, and that same language has been forwarded on to the federal government, again, for land protections.

The Reno Sparks Indian Colony led the way for additional protection for sacred burial sites. That was signed in June, the end of the month, by Governor Sisolak, sponsored by Representative Martinez.

There is now a system in place for producing a small revenue stream on the Stewart campus, with the supervision of the Nevada Indian Commission. Should an organization want to use facilities for some kind of outside activity, a reception, a wedding, something along those lines, the campus is now available. And as the coordinating agency, the Nevada Indian Commission will oversee that process.

The 81st Session gave Tribal Nations’ Indian people representation on a few standing councils, commissions, planning agencies (including the Land Use Planning Advisory Council), the Board of Geographic Names, and on the Committee on Natural Resources. All of these committees have been doing work for years, and now will have Native American representation at the table. It’s an outstanding way to not only provide an indigenous perspective, but it gives Native Americans more visibility on the state level.

The 81st Session culminated with an “absolutely fantastic” event on campus. On Friday, June the 4th, the leadership from the legislature, as well as Governor Sisolak, the NIC Commissioners and eleven Tribal Chairs all came and witnessed ceremonial signing of these bills, right in front of the Cultural Center. Tribal elected leadership is providing a pathway to higher education.

The 2020 Census resulted in an increase in the number of self-identified Native Americans. Those numbers have gone from 55,945 self-identified indigenous people to 105,790. Besides a growing population, tribal leadership involved in the actual door-to-door count is really what made a difference. Every Native American household door was knocked on at least once.

The Executive Director had some exciting election news. The Nevada Indian Commission has partnered with several not-for-profit agencies or other organizations, to include Inter-Tribal Council, NARF, Tribal Minds, All Voting is Local, Nevada Native Voter Project, and the Native Voters Alliance of Nevada. They met as a consortium twice with the Secretary of State's office and are trying to ensure that voting access is as equal as it is to non-Natives, especially those who live in rural, remote areas. There is now a system in place where any tribal nation can request not just a polling place on election day, but early voting, as well as a ballot drop-off box. They also are working with the Secretary of State's office to ensure that tribal citizens can register to vote online. Unfortunately, the Secretary of State's website will not accept tribal IDs, and that is unfortunate and unacceptable, because there is legislation now that equates a tribal ID with a Nevada state ID. Additional work needs to be done on the Secretary of State's website to include a comprehensive list of all the places to vote, reservation polling places, early voting, and drop-off sites. The Walker River Paiute Nation in Precinct number 11 in Mineral County had an 80.74 percent voter turn-out. Chair Torres and Elveda Martinez worked tirelessly to achieve this amazing turnout. The Director said they are looking for all of the tribal nations to follow their lead and come up with those kind of amazing numbers in the future.

The Executive Director asked if there were any questions, and there were:

Commissioner Emm asked if there were ARP funds coming through the state that are flowing to the tribes, to assist them with their emergency management of COVID. Director Montooth said not to her knowledge. She said the vast majority of tribal nations have been working on a federal level for funding for COVID-19 mitigation. Tribal nations have some extremely impressive percentages regarding vaccination rates.

Ryan Gershman, Nevada Division of Emergency Management clarified that tribal partners did get both CARES funding and are getting access to ARPA funding. A large amount of funding was made available to them, and with that funding, they've been able to do a multitude of different things in response to COVID as well as other things, such as purchasing emergency wireless signal transponders to increase their cellphone coverage within their area of operation or purchasing PPE and Binax testing kits. They were afforded funds directly from the feds to the tribes because they did go directly through FEMA and IHS for their COVID response.

Commissioner Emm asked about reservations that are in multiple states and how federal and state funds are allocated. This applies to things like emergency funding and the fee waiver issue. She said it can be frustrating for all involved.

Commissioner Emm then asked if the Census data was available per reservation? Director Montooth said she thought you could use the Census Demographic Data Map Viewer and use ZIP Codes to get specific information. She said she would be happy to connect Commissioner Emm with the NIC's Census contact to try to do a little drilling down into each respective tribal nation.

Director Montooth said that Nevada Treasurer Zach Conine's goal is to get input from all Nevada citizens, including tribal citizens, about how they want the State of Nevada to invest the American Rescue Funding that's coming directly to the state. On October 15th, the Washoe Tribal Nation is going to host the Treasurer at the Carson Community, at their Colony Gym. The Director emphasized that tribal nations don't recognize the state boundary. In traditional times, ancestors had shared borders and they had coordinating indigenous territories. And that mindset still exists in 2021. So, if there's a fire that impacts the folks that live in Dresslerville, it also impacts those folks that are at Woodfords. Unfortunately, when it comes to emergency management, emergency planning, and actual implement of an emergency plan, the state's elected officials and Directors are very cognizant of where they spend that money. Director Montooth said she believes it's the State of Nevada's perspective that tax dollars that are generated from Nevada citizens and there's a bit of an issue with it being spent on a tribal nation in California, even if they are headquartered in Nevada. It's certainly something that requires some more inquiry, and the Director will put it on the NIC priority list. The issue about jurisdiction and the fee waiver is a problem, and this needs to be investigated. Some students do not meet the residency requirement to qualify for the fee waiver. In the Washoe Nation, they have students who live in Woodfords but attend high school in Nevada. They're Douglas County High School students, but they don't qualify to apply for the Native American fee waiver because they don't have a year's residency in the state of Nevada. In addition to the Washoe Nation, this has been an issue for some citizens with the Timbisha Nation. It could be an issue for some students at the Sho-Pai Nation of Duck Valley as well. The Nevada Indian Commission has been working with Tribal Education Directors, tribal leaders, and NSHE institutions to work through these issues. The Director has a meeting scheduled with Assemblywoman Anderson, who originally authored this legislation. They are already talking about what they can do to tweak the language to include all of those students next Legislative Session.

Commissioner Wadsworth said UNR just posted a Director of Community Indigenous Relations position. Once that position is filled, it could help fill in the gaps and create that bridge of different interpretations of the law. Director Montooth said the link to that job is on the Nevada Indian Commission Facebook page, along with several other really great jobs in Indian Country right now.

The Director announced that they now have the required professional development or the mandatory training for Nevada employees set for the November 5th.

The Confederated Tribes of the Goshute have formally requested consultation and the Governor's office is trying to accommodate an in-person meeting on that tribal nation's

land with Governor Sisolak, in person.

The Director stated the most covered issue right now has to do with NAGPRA. Marissa Weaselboy, a citizen of the Yomba Shoshone Nation, who at the time was a Master's student in anthropology at the University of Nevada, used public comments to convey an issue regarding some ancestors that were being inappropriately held at UNR. And because of her sharing that information, the University has not just formed a working group, but they've hired a consulting company to get the school in compliance with NAGPRA. Last week, President Sandoval met with tribal leaders in person and virtual – for the second time since 2021 to discuss ancestors, funerary objects, and items of extreme cultural importance being held inappropriately, illegally, in fact, by not just the University of Nevada, but likely a lot of public institutions.

There has been quick work that has taken place with the University. Tribal leaders, education directors, and the folks that work for native students for different school districts have been getting the word out about the fee waiver process. The Nevada Indian Commission has collaborated with partners to have webinars to explain the process as well as having a webinar with tribal education directors and tribal enrollment officers who will help students show evidence of their enrollment or their descendency. NIC will be getting information from NSHE. Per the NRS, they're required to report out all the data, not just those students who applied, but those that were successful and those that, for whatever reason, were deemed ineligible.

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior's initiative is a big focus of the Nevada Indian Commission's right now. Deb Haaland, who is a Native American, has announced that the Department of Interior would be doing this investigation, in which they will try to identify all the students who attended boarding schools, when they attended boarding schools, and what their tribal affiliation is. Because Canada is a little ahead of the United States in its healing, its Truth and Healing Coalition, there've been a lot of headlines that have addressed the 1,500 sets of remains that have been found at the residential boarding schools in Canada. It's likely that similar numbers will be revealed in this country, and it's something that they have to be prepared for. When the Stewart Indian School was closed in 1980, the campus was divided in halves. Part of the campus was quitclaim deeded to the State of Nevada, and that includes the property on which the Cultural Center stands. The balance of the land was returned, rightly, to the Washoe Nation. It was their indigenous land to begin with. The land on which the Dat-So-La-Lee Cemetery is, the cemetery that was associated with the school's 90-year history, is legally under the jurisdiction of the Washoe Nation. So, as the Secretary's initiative moves forward, if there is to be any investigation into that cemetery, it has to be with the direction and leadership of the Washoe Nation, as it is their land.

Director Montooth concluded her report and asked if there were any further questions.

Commissioner Krolicki had no questions, but he praised the Director's thorough report.

Commissioner Wadsworth had a question about the Secretary of Interior's initiative

regarding the boarding school. What does that process look like?

Director Montooth said the Secretary's office announced that they would be contacting each tribal nation directly. The hierarchy for the Department of Interior also includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The NIC is working with BIA in order to become a repository. If the BIA would give NIC the records that they don't have access to, they could get a jump start on the process. For now, they are waiting to get more information and guidance from the Interior's office.

Commissioner Lathouris said he thought that it was important that they are being proactive instead of reactive on this issue. It's long overdue. He said the Director's report really does show the purpose of the Nevada Indian Commission. All the items in the report show that the Director and her staff have addressed those very things for which the Commission was created. The purpose of the Commission is to study matters affecting the social and economic well-being and welfare of American Indians residing in Nevada, matters and problems related to Indian affairs in the federal and state control, responsibility, policy, and operations.

VII. Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum Report – Bobbi Rahder (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Chris Gibbons, Curator of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum presented the Stewart report.

Ms. Gibbons started with Financial Stability. He said the Welcome Center Gift Shop is up and running, with a wide assortment of memorabilia. They now sell Star Village Coffee from the Zuniga Family, plant medicines made by Washoe Tribal Member, and a lot of bead work from different artists. All the proceeds go back into the shop to buy more items from native artists. He encouraged everyone to come visit and start their holiday shopping now.

The Stewart staff is working with Commissioner Krolicki about reforming SISPA (Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance). That group has been around for a few years, and they are looking to add Board members so in the future they can apply for grants that are only available to 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profits. Right now, because they're under the State of Nevada, they are not allowed to apply for every grant that's out there, so SISPA will be reforming and recruiting for Board members.

Collection Stewardship has been active. There's a fairly large collection of items that are being rehouse and catalogued. New donations are accepted from the public, and items range from Stewart Indian School memorabilia to beadwork to other items. Recently, Commissioner Wadsworth donated an arrowhead collection that was found at a local thrift shop by a friend of his. Staff will be working on consultation with local tribes to rehouse that collection into a different repository.

As for Research Requests, they have completed about 30 research requests since the

last NIC Board Meeting. Research mainly is about either descendants or alumni from the Stewart Indian School.

To comply with the Secretary of Interior initiative, the priority is to preserve and organize all the Stewart records that are in-house. Unfortunately, they don't have a lot. Most of it is in different repositories, including the National Archives in San Bruno that has hundreds of thousands of pages of documents. The plan is to get as much information to Stewart as possible to comply with that initiative. The Secretary will be starting travel consultations soon, and they want to make sure they are ready for that visit.

Staff is working with the BIA office in Washington, DC, to become a repository for artifacts and records that are housed at the Annex in Carson City. There's a collection of Bureau of Indian Affairs-owned items that were from the old museum at the Stewart Indian School from 1982 to 2001. There are documents and artifacts in that collection.

Under Education and Interpretation, they made eight presentations to various organizations in virtual meetings since the last NIC Board Meeting. They've hosted 20 tours for a total of 331 people while adhering to Covid restrictions. They are working with their Cultural Advisory Committee on planning educational classes to offer when the pandemic ends.

Staff is working with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition and NIU graduate Orilla Cressman (a member of the Walker River Paiute Nation) on providing historical trauma information and resources for healing with Stewart alumni and family members. Ms. Cressman is also working on curriculum and materials for sharing the history of Stewart.

At the Great Basin Native Artists Gallery, professional Native American artist Melissa Melero-Moose curated an exhibit called "Beads." It premiered April 23rd, 2021. It will be coming down to Stewart at the end of October. The next show should be a basket show, which Ms. Melero-Moose is finalizing right now.

In terms of outreach, Stewart worked with Marty Meedin [ph], from the Washoe Tribe, to offer two paid summer internships. Staff is also working on outreach to Tribal Nations to get more interns and volunteers, especially Stewart alumni and their descendants.

The Great Basin Native Basketweavers will be returning to Stewart in January 2022 led by Leah Brady. Stewart assisted the Stevens family to hold the Remembrance Run at the Stewart Indian School on August 14th, to honor their relative, Frank Quinn, who was Ku Stevens' great-grandfather, who ran from Stewart to Yerington when he was 8 years old. He was a Yerington Paiute Tribal member and a high-school track athlete. The Run was a success.

Staff is working with Fawn Douglas on a Stewart history slideshow for a performance as part of UNLV's Exhibition and Symposium in Las Vegas on November 5th. They are recording oral histories with Stewart alumni. Their most recent oral history was with

Wilmer Mahoe, a member of the 1966 Stewart basketball championship team. And they also recently talked with Charles Molins, a Stewart student from 1937 to '44. All those oral histories will go into the Archives and will be shared with family members.

In terms of Facility and Risk Management, staff is looking for alternative funding to house their collections at the Stewart Indian School. Before the pandemic hit, they did have funding set aside to the Capital Improvement Project to renovate the bakery building. Unfortunately, that funding went away due to the pandemic. They are in desperate need of collection storage space, especially as the collection grows. When they do become a repository, they will need a bigger building. So, they are looking for alternative funding. Working with SISPA is so important, as far as to be able to apply for grants outside state and federal grants, so that work will continue going forward.

Staff is giving a presentation to the Preserve Nevada Board Meeting on October 9th. They have been approached to be included on their list of 11 Most Endangered Places in Nevada. They are hoping that the Preserve Nevada staff will help them identify funding for more preservation work with the Stewart bakery building.

Dr. Gregory Smoak from the American West Center at the University of Utah reported that he's still working on revisions to Stewart's nomination to the National Park Service to make the Stewart Indian School a National Historic Landmark.

Mr. Gibbons said media coverage for Stewart has been frequent and positive and examples were provided in the Commissioners' packets. Their website has undergone some improvements and now includes a memorial page for Stewart alumni who have passed on. They are also going to be posting Stewart Indian School newsletters to the site soon.

Commissioner Lathouris thanked Ms. Gibbons for his written report and presentation. He said it was wonderful to hear about all the activities at Stewart.

Commissioner Wadsworth thanked Ms. Gibbons and staff for all their hard work. He said visiting Stewart was a great experience; the tour and the gift shop were fantastic. He said everyone should be proud of their efforts.

Commissioner Emm said she would like to applaud all of the work being done at the Stewart School. It's important work and she appreciates it greatly. She asked what were the pros and cons of getting National Historic Landmark status?

Ms. Gibbons said that in her opinion, it's mostly pros. Since the 1980s, The Stewart Indian School has been on the National Register of Historic Places. That's a pro in terms of being able to apply for grant funding. Staff believes that by being on the national level, that it will help bring more awareness. They will continue to work with state partners and tribal partners on their 20-Year Master Plan for the campus. So, I think in the end, the pros will outweigh the cons.

Janelle Gutierrez, Acting Chair for the Bi-State Tribal Natural Resources Committee said that the Stewart School staff has done “amazing” work and their report was awesome. She asked what tribe Melissa Melero-Moose was from? Mr. Gibbons said Melissa is Northern Paiute.

There were no further questions or comments, so the meeting moved on to the next agenda item.

VIII. New Business (For Discussion and Possible Action)

A. NIC Staffing (employee / legal / Governor’s contact)

Director Montooth said that the Nevada Indian Commission made the decision a year ago July to vacate its admin assistant job after the Governor required every agency to cut their budgets. That was the least painful way to save the money – the amount of money that was required, not just for the Indian Commission’s budget, but for the Cultural Center as well. They also lost their “amazing, experienced” program officer, Sari Nichols. This means that Director Montooth is the only staff member for this section of the Nevada Indian Commission. Ms. Jessica Diss has been the Nevada Indian Commission’s contact in the Governor’s office, and she was a Senior Counsel for the Governor as well. With all the changes in the Governor’s office, they are kind of in a “holding pattern” right now regarding their contact in the Governor’s office.

Director Montooth said she’s been working with the Nevada Department of Human Resource Management, and they do have the Program Officer position posted, and she anticipates that the Admin III position is in the process of being posted. The good news is that they have plenty of funding to cover those two positions.

B. Election / Appointment of NIC Commissioners’ Officers

Commissioner Wadsworth asked Director Montooth if she could provide an update on if and when they are going get that fifth Commissioner spot filled? Is there someone in line that the Governor may have in mind?

Director Montooth said they would “absolutely” have a fifth commissioner. There is a process in place, and she thinks the Governor is prepared to appoint that fifth commissioner, but there’s a little more legalese that has to take place. She said Commissioner Emm’s appointment to the slot replacing the former vice-chair, that term started in March. So Commissioner Emm begins in March of 2021 and has the three-year term, replacing Vice-Chair Arnold. The fifth person who will be appointed very shortly, will serve out the remaining term of our Commissioner Pasqua.

Commissioner Lathouris read from NAC 233A.070 and said they should declare the office of Chair vacant. Mr. Ott said it’s vacant by operation of law, and they didn’t need an action. Commissioner Lathouris asked if there were any nominations, and there was only one.

Motion: Nominate Commissioner Lathouris for Chairman
By: Commissioner Emm
Second: Commissioner Krolicki
Vote: Motion passed unanimously with one abstention from Commissioner Lathouris

Chair Lathouris thanked everyone for their vote of confidence and then declared a vacancy in the office of Vice-Chair of the Commission. He asked for nominations, and there was only one.

Motion: Nominate Commissioner Wadsworth for Vice-Chairman
By: Commissioner Wadsworth
Second: Commissioner Lathouris
Vote: Motion passed unanimously with one abstention from Commissioner Wadsworth

C. Appointments to Nevada Boards, Commissions, Committees with Native American Representatives

Director Montooth said after the Legislative Session, the Nevada Indian Commission and other Native organizations were rewarded with seats at the table for these various boards, commissions, and committees. She compiled a list of the different organizations that want someone, either from the Nevada Indian Commission Commissioners, or they want the Chair of the Commission to appoint someone, or they just want someone from Indian Country.

Chair Lathouris asked Mr. Ott about the process for selecting people to serve on these boards and considering people. Mr. Ott said the question depends on who is being appointed. He thought they could handle the ones that are Commission members without special notice. If they are trying to nominate someone who's a member of the general public and not necessarily a Commission member, that would require a specialized notice and posting requirement. There's an Open Meeting provision that says that whenever you're taking administrative action regarding an individual, that person's name is supposed to appear on the agenda.

Chair Lathouris said he thought the proper course of action would be to identify those boards where the designee is specifically somebody from the Commission. And amongst themselves, they could decide who from the Commission will represent the Commission on these boards. All other boards that require or create the option of somebody being from the general public, they should create a separate list for and follow the posting requirements for those.

- **Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation:** The designee is the Chair of the Nevada Indian Commission.

- **Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety:** Appointed by the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada or its successor organization. They might want to add Clifford to the Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety. He's the representative on the Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety, by ITC and resolution.
- **The Board of Museums and History:** After consultation with the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, NIC will appoint
- **Department of Transportation Advisory Working Group to Study Certain Issues Related to Transportation:** A representative of local county, tribal state, and federal agency with expertise. Public posting for that.
- **Interagency Council on Veteran Affairs:** Is the Executive Director.
- **Land Use Planning Advisory Council:** One member who represents the Nevada Indian Commission. Nominations were taken.

Motion: Nominate Commissioner Emm to represent the NIC on the Land Use Planning Advisory Council

By: Chair Lathouris

Second: Commissioner Krolicki

Vote: Motion passed unanimously with one abstention from Commissioner Emm

- **Subcommittee on Public Lands:** One member representing tribal governments in Nevada, who is recommended by the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada. Public posting for that.
- **Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council:** Representative of Head Start agencies in the state. Outside of Nevada Indian Commission purview. Public posting.
- **Nevada State Board on Geographic Names.** Two representatives, one from ITCN and one for the Nevada Indian Commission. Nominations were taken. Commissioner Wadsworth nominated Executive Director Stacey Montooth for the position. Director Montooth said she knew of a more qualified candidate, a citizen of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Nation who is working on her Master's degree in geography. Mr. Ott said if they want to nominate someone outside the NIC, they should do a posting. It was decided to table this matter because there are several legal questions that remain, those questions being can the representative of the Nevada Indian Commission be somebody who's not on the Commission, and if they're not going to be on the Commission, what the requirements are for posting and considering applications.
- **Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council:** The Chief of Emergency Management shall appoint each member from a different federally recognized Indian tribe or nation, so this matter was tabled. Director Montooth will report

back.

- **Regional Transmission Coordination Task Force:** Will be a representative of the Nevada Indian Commission. It was decided to table this matter for the same legal concerns as the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names' discussion.

D. Possible Creation of an Activities Sub Committee

A discussion about forming an Activities Subcommittee centered around the Father's Day Pow Wow and the Awards Banquet.

Commissioner Emm said she thought it would be of a great service to all of the Commissioners if they could create a subcommittee that also had volunteers. The workload warrants getting volunteers to work with the Commissioners.

Mr. Ott said if they were simply delegating a task to a member of the Commission, to carry out some function, that may not necessarily mean that they need to create a subcommittee for it. For instance, they could have one member who's interested in this specific topic and just direct them to go take on this job and then report back to the Commission. So, they don't necessarily need to create a subcommittee, if you don't want to.

Commissioner Krolicki said that the Pow Wow and the Award Banquet used to be under the Advisory Committee for the Stewart site. There is a Stewart Advisory Committee. The reason why it was under the Advisory Committee is because those are the people responsible for running the actual, physical site.

Commissioner Wadsworth said he thought that having the Stewart Advisory Committee manage the Pow Wow and Awards Banquet was a good idea.

Chair Lathouris asked if they're able to address the involvement that the Commission has with the planning of the Father's Day Pow Wow, would that address the initial concerns that were raised by proposing that NIC has an Activities Committee?

Commissioner Emm said in the immediate, yes. But in the long term, they need to figure out how to organize and plan activities. For now, they need to get started planning the Pow Wow. They have about a year to plan for the Awards Banquet. She said they should keep this topic on the agenda to figure out logistics.

Chair Lathouris said one of the things that he was going to ask to be put on the agenda for the next Commission Meeting was an orientation for new Commissioners, which hopefully, by that time, they will have the fifth Commissioner. It would be a good chance to refresh. And as part of that, he would want to include also the role of the Commission regarding the Awards Banquet and Father's Day Pow Wow. They could discuss how they have done it in the past, whether that

system works or if they need to make any changes. But at this point, would it be necessary to delegate a Commissioner to represent the Commission at the Advisory Committee level on the Father's Day Pow Wow? Is that needed, or are they just able to be involved on an individual basis?

Commissioner Krolicki said she thought the Executive Director automatically sits on the Stewart Advisory Committee and that committee is basically everybody that uses the Stewart site. He wants the easiest way in order to start to work on these things. If the Pow Wow has to be small this year because they're behind in planning, that's okay. The tradition should continue.

Commissioner Wadsworth said he would be honored to be able to help out and serve or volunteer his time to help with the planning of the Pow Wow and with the Awards Banquet.

IX. Unfinished Business (For Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA) update – Kelly Krolicki

Commissioner Krolicki explained that the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance is a non-profit that was established to preserve the Stewart site. Right now, they are needing to create some type of repository for the Stewart site, and they do not have a pathway to retrofit the bakery. SISPA has a non-profit status that would allow the Cultural Center and even the Stewart site to be able to write some type of grant funding. They would like to rebuild SISPA with a little more flexibility. So, they will be reviewing their Bylaws once again for the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance. On a side note, the Commissioner said if SISPA was to go away, it is written in the Bylaws that the money that SISPA holds right now, which is about \$10,000, would go to the Gift Fund.

B. Bi-State Tribal Natural Resources Committee Update – Melyssa Navis

Melyssa Navis began the update with an overview on the Tech Summit that took place earlier this year. Working through pandemic restrictions, they had a two-day summit, July 14 and 15. The theme of the summit was "Understanding Ecological Knowledge, Past, Present and Future." It was two days of virtual presentations with one day, field day, near Levine in California and Mono Lake, very successful. There was a broad spectrum of attendees with tribal leadership, tribal members, and state and federal leadership and staff. Governor Sisolak presented the certificate regarding the importance of the Tech Summit Committee. They ended up spending about \$14,000, and the remaining monies are seed monies for the next Tech Summit Committee.

The topics covered were all around land management. They included cultural burning, a tribal panel on wildlife, and tribal public land management joint initiatives (how tribes were working with federal and state agencies on particular projects). Dirk Charley recapped the second day with a discussion on inadvertent discovery

during fires and incorporating traditional ecological knowledge. And even the Sage Grouse Dance Society performed! They talked about water quality and the horse issue and land management. LADWP was there as well. Another unexpected twist was the networking opportunities. There was a cross-fertilization of disciplines and backgrounds that came together that networked following the event. Many thanks go to Charlotte Lang, the Facilitator, for putting that monumental effort together.

Charlotte Lang, Facilitator for the Tech Summit said she had to thank Melyssa, Cliff Banuelos, Heather Stone, Dean Tonenna, and Danielle Gutierrez. And a great big thank-you went out to Governor Sisolak! The Committee is reaching out to their Indian partners to join the BTNRC Committee and Ms. Lang will be sending letters out to representatives to come and help make them even stronger.

C. Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) update – Fawn Hunter

Ms. Hunter said the Indian Education Advisory Committee's overall purpose is securing shared responsibility and partnership with tribe entities and Indian parents. To better serve this purpose, the committee is updating their antiquated Bylaws so they will be more able to have quorum and get things done. Ms. Hunter shared all meeting notes, communication, and documentation. It was evident that any and all input was welcomed in the process. She said they are still working to get that all together and working as a team moving forward through the IEAC to get their Bylaws corrected. Then they can move on from the Bylaws and go to other things of concern within the community and education. So, they will try to get their update or get it to the Board by the next meeting, so that way they can actually move forward and get the Bylaws pushed through.

Director Montooth said she was hoping the Commissioners would approve the two appointments that were included in the meeting materials. They are looking to reappoint Ms. Fawn Hunter for another term on the Nevada Indian Education Advisory Committee, as well as Miguel Martinez. Their applications, along with the signatures of their direct supervisors, were included in the Board books. If Members could take a vote on that, the Nevada Indian Commission would be grateful.

Motion: Reappoint Fawn Hunter and Appoint Miguel Martinez to the Nevada Indian Education Advisory Committee
By: Commissioner Emm
Second: Commissioner Krolicki
Vote: Motion passed unanimously

X. Agenda Items for Future Meetings (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Chair Lathouris identified some agenda items:

- An update regarding the Commission and Stewart Indian School's role in the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative
- A discussion of a land acknowledgment policy for the Commission and other state agency meetings
- Orientation for the Commissioners, which would include a discussion about the advisory committees and events that the Commission participates in
- Follow-up on consultation in AB264 and what feedback has been received from state agencies and tribes
- Follow-up regarding the UNR NAGPRA compliance
- Discussion about the mitigation plans with FEMA and the benefits that those hold for tribes in multiple states

Commissioner Emm suggested they have the option to hear directly from Nevada tribes at their meetings. Chair Lathouris said prior to COVID, they would actually hold Commission meetings on different reservations. In the prior administration with the Executive Director, there was a survey and study that went out and find out from the tribes what they needed from the NIC. Maybe it's time to figure out what exactly happened with that and maybe dust it off. Tribal nation participation would be wonderful!

Director Montooth said that all tribal nations are invited to the Commissioners' meetings.

Chair Lathouris said maybe they should include an agenda item towards the top of the meetings for tribal chair or vice-chair comments. That way, if they do have tribal chair participation, they have an opportunity right in the beginning of the agenda to address any concerns or acknowledgments they want to make.

XII. Scheduling of future Nevada Indian Commission meetings (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Members decided they should plan ahead and set meeting dates for 2022. The dates will be:

Monday January 24
 Monday April 25
 Monday July 2
 Monday October 24

XIII. Final Public Comment

Ryan Gerchman from the Division of Emergency Management said that the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the mitigation grant has been released, and applications are going to be due soon. He invited anyone interested to chat with him for more information before the next meeting. That way, everyone can be more informed on it in order to pass that information on to tribal stakeholders.

Mr. Gerchman encouraged tribal partners, tribal communities to hire a grant writer or a grant firm. There's a whole lot of money (CARES and ARPA money) that many tribes are not able to take advantage of because of administrative requirements of those grants.

Tammi Tiger, community organizer with the Las Vegas Indian Center shared that Clark County was the first county in Nevada to have Indigenous Peoples' Day officially adopted as a resolution, on the second Monday of October. They will be receiving a proclamation for that at the next Board of County Commissioners Meeting. They have partnered with the county for a car parade up Las Vegas Boulevard, with tribes and tribal representatives showing their colors and pride in a tangible way.

Ms. Tiger said they have been working with their table partners from Silver State Voices and Nevadans Count on redistricting and ensuring that indigenous voices are part of the redistricting process. They collected over 75 community of interest mapping from the various indigenous residents in Southern Nevada. They will also be bringing people up North during Special Session, including some youths they want to educate on the Census and the redistricting process.

Clifford Banuelos, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada gave a quick update on some environmental things. The Thacker Pass Lithium Mine has been a focus for Nevada tribes recently. The state is reviewing three state permits. They hope to have those out either late October or early November to go to the tribes. The Bureau of Land Management is reviewing the Environmental Impact Statement, and there is a court case on December 1st regarding use of the water table, what water can be used and not used, based on that EIS finding. Mr. Banuelos can forward that information to the Board.

The expansion of the Fallon Naval Base is also something in the works. NIC and ITCN are both deeply involved in these big environmental issues.

XIV. Adjournment

Chair Lathouris thanked everyone for their participation and hard work and said he would accept a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Adjourn the October 4th NIC Meeting
By: Commissioner Wadsworth
Second: Chair Lathouris
Vote: Motion passed unanimously