

Nevada Indian Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 24, 2022

9:30 AM

Meeting Location: Zoom

Commissioners Present:

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

Staff Present:

Stacey Montooth – Nevada Indian Commission Executive Director
Bobbi Rahder – Museum Director Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum

Others Present:

Scott Anderson, Nevada Chief Deputy Secretary of State and Tribal Liaison
Cliff Banuelos, Tribal-State Environmental Liaison for the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
Josie Burnett, Nevada Division of Emergency Management Tribal Health Preparedness Coordinator
Fredina Drye-Romero, Nevada Department of Education, Programs Professional for Indian Education
Guinevere Hobdy, Nevada Department of Transportation Asst. Chief Multimodal Planning
Fran Maldonado, Tribal Liaison for Nevada Division of Child & Family Services - Adoption Specialist
Kailey Musso, Tribal Liaison for Nevada Department of Wildlife
Melyssa Navis, Tribal Relations Specialist for Forest Service Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Greg Ott, Nevada Deputy Attorney General
Monica Schiffer, Nevada Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, IHS Policy Specialist
Briza Virgen, Tribal Liaison for Nevada Division of Healthcare, Finance, & Policy
Jay Martin, Nevada Division of Emergency Management Tribal
Dominique M. Etchegoyhen, NV Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Deputy Director
Nikki Hagg, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Health Program Specialist/Tribal Liaison
Tiffany Davis, Silver State Health Insurance Exchange, Executive Assistant/Tribal Liaison
Kerry Durmick, Nevada Director, All Voting is Local
Maria Jake, ITCN, Lead Caseworker/ Quality Improvement Specialist
Madeline Burak, Office of Governor Steve Sisolak, Director of Community Outreach & Constituent Affairs
Brian Thomas, Chair of the Sho-Pai Tribe of Duck Valley
Maxine Redstar, Chair of the Ft. McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Nation
Fred Wager, Deputy Director from Veterans Services Tribal Liaison

I. Convene meeting, roll call, and establish quorum

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

II. Invocation

Nikki Hagg, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Health Program Specialist and citizen of the Walker River Paiute Nation provided the invocation.

III. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Chairman Kostan Lathouris recited the inaugural land acknowledgement statement for the Nevada Indian Commission. The land acknowledgement will be the new standard practice for Nevada Indian Commission meetings going forward. The Chairman said they welcome any tribal comments or suggestions to refine/improve the verbiage for the land acknowledgement.

IV. Introductions

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.

V. Initial Public Comment

Executive Director Montooth said she would like to start the week off with a little celebration to acknowledge the successes of indigenous people. She then highlighted Walker River Paiute citizen and University of Nevada alumni, Austin Corbett. Austin is now the Los Angeles Rams starting offensive lineman, and he brings much pride to all of Indian Country. Nikki Hagg said that Austin was his cousin and was truly an amazing athlete and a great representative for all of them.

An unidentified speaker reminded everyone to participate in the Indigenous Future Survey. It's online at indigenousfutures.org. It's presented by researchers from Rice and the University of Michigan Illuminative and Native Organizers Alliance. Every entry earns a raffle spot for a \$100 gift certificate to native-owned businesses.

VI. Approval of December 29, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes (For Discussion and Possible Action)

There were no changes or corrections to the minutes.

Motion: Approve December 29, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes

By: Commissioner Emm

Second: Vice Chairman Wadsworth

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

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

Executive Director Montooth said she submitted a written report and she would be happy to answer any questions regarding fiscal information, activities, or day-to-day operations.

Vice-Chairman Wadsworth asked about the next legislative session. Does the NIC have any plans for proposed legislation or have tribal leaders reached out to them with any suggestions?

Director Montooth said the 82nd session is in 2023. Last week she met with representatives from the Governor's Office to talk about any ideas regarding fiscal, management, any big changes within the agency. The Nevada Indian Commission doesn't have the ability to introduce legislation directly, so should the NIC commissioners want a specific issue to be introduced, they need to go find a friendly legislator, which there are many, who support Indian country.

Commissioner Emm asked how can they get NIC to have the ability to put forth two or three proposals per legislative session?

Deputy Wager said his veterans group hosts a legislative symposium, and all of the recommendations from the veterans community go to the LCB for folks in the legislature to pick up. As an agency itself, they are not going to be putting in any bills to the legislature without the Governor's hand on it.

Bobbi Rahder with the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum said they received Capital Improvement Project approval in 2019 to renovate the Stewart Bakery building and that was approved for almost \$1 million. And then during the following year in 2020, because of the COVID impact on the state budget, the Governor had to use that funding elsewhere. However, she said that they did recently receive word from the State Public Works that the CIP project for the bakery building will be included in the CIP request from State Public Works for the next session. They had also done a CIP proposal to renovate the Stewart auditorium and the Stewart old gym, and she asked if the commissioners would like them to include those two buildings in the next CIP list of building requests?

Commissioner Krolicki said of course they would support any and all improvements at Stewart, but the bakery should still be priority #1.

There were no further questions regarding this part of the Executive Director's Report, so Chair Lathouris asked the Executive Director to elaborate a little bit more on the Secretary of the Interior's initiative at the boarding schools.

Director Montooth said following the December 3 meeting where they had 12 tribal leaders as well as Governor Sisolak and elders on campus, the Governor penned a letter that was sent to Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland specifically asking for two things. The first was access to the records that were confiscated when the school closed in 1980. Those records are now under the purview of the Nevada Museum, and the Stewart staff works well with that organization. However, they need the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which is a subdivision of the Department of Interior, to be able to have access or to keep those records. They need permission from the Secretary or from the Department of Interior to do that. The other question was about funding, and would the federal government be providing money not just for the physical search, but also funding for any kind of services that they want to provide for Stewart alumni and elders.

Chair Lathouris said the Governor did commit to helping the Nevada Indian Commission and

the tribes within the State of Nevada with the federal government. He said he was very happy to hear that and see that that's been moving forward.

Director Montooth said another thing that really should be highlighted within her report regarding the initiative and the boarding schools is that there's been a change in the leadership with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. Deborah Parker is now in charge of that organization and another one of her staffers, Mr. Torres, actually visited on campus and toured the Cultural Center. The Department of Interior has signed a Memo of Understanding to share resources regarding the initiative. The Director said this is much-welcomed and long overdue.

There were no further comments or questions regarding the Executive Director Report and a motion was made.

Motion: Approve the Executive Director Report

By: Chair Lathouris

Second: Commissioner Krolicki

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

VIII. Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum Report (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director of the Stewart Indian School, had a few brief comments before taking questions.

She said one of their most dedicated volunteers, Larry Hale, passed away recently. His father and many relatives attended Stewart Indian School and Larry worked on the grounds at Stewart for over 40 years. Director Montooth is asking the Governor for some kind of a statement or proclamation or recognition of his state service, and also, the family will have a memorial for Larry sometime this spring.

Director Rahder then announced that Kutoven Stevens, the Yerington athlete who did the Remembrance Run last August, was named by the *Reno Gazette Journal* as the Citizen of the Year, which is a huge honor. Ku and his family would like to do another Remembrance Run this coming June.

Vice-Chair Wadsworth asked about the apparel sold at Stewart, specifically the items utilizing an "S" logo. He said he had heard that some people objected to the use of that "S" logo and thought it was insensitive. Had the Director received any negative feedback? Director Rahder said she never had a complaint about using the letter "S" on the Stewart gear. They decided to use the "S" because they looked through past issues of the Stewart Braves Yearbook and the "S" was very prominent during certain years of Stewart's being open as a school. They have been trying to be really sensitive to the way that the school is represented.

Chair Lathouris said he appreciated Vice-Chair Wadsworth's point because this is a very impactful history for a lot of people. He said it's important for them to discuss ways to address people's concerns and to come up with potential solutions.

The Chair then asked Commissioner Krolicki for an update on potential SISPA (Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance) members. Commissioner Krolicki said they have five people now that are interested in recreating a board. Their first priority is to change their bylaws so that it's not a membership type of an organization, and once they change that, then they will definitely be open to more participation.

Chair Lathouris asked if there were further questions about the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum Report and there were none.

Motion: Approve the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum Report

By: Chair Lathouris

Second: Vice Chairman Wadsworth

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

IX. New Business (For Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Stewart Father's Day Powwow Planning

Director Montooth said some progress has been made on the Powwow plans. It's difficult to make plans around Covid restrictions, but they are going ahead and planning anyway. There is an established Powwow Committee, and the Director will be organizing a meeting in the near future. They will use the poster from 2019 that they were never able to use because of Covid.

Chair Lathouris said in regard to Covid, they need to make sure that they are complying with any state guidance or rules regarding gatherings, given that thousands of people attend the Powwow.

Commissioner Emm added they also needed to be mindful of Open Meeting Laws when they were doing planning meetings.

Vice-Chair Wadsworth said the Powwow is a huge undertaking with many moving parts. He said the Commissioners' participation is vital to ensuring success for this outstanding event.

Chair Lathouris asked if the Executive Director requested any action on this item at this time, and she said no.

B. Nevada Native American Community and Economic Development Planning Summit

Executive Director Montooth said there is an "amazing" event that's on the horizon specifically to help all municipalities throughout the country with infrastructure. It is all based on the federal funding from the American Rescue Act and the Build Back Better Act. Specific to their constituency, tribal nations will be getting specific discretionary funding based on population and how many employees a tribal nation has under their purview.

Through a workshop that will be held at the University of Nevada February 14th and 15th, the state will have experts on hand who not only will go through the ins and outs of applying for some of these Federal grants, but will have technical assistance to get the process started. The experts can also help tribal nations who have started the application process and are just looking for a little more guidance.

This is going to be a time for participating tribal governments to map out some kind of a blueprint for future economic development. The Director said some of tribal governments, most likely those in the urban areas, do very well with their economic development and their business enterprises, but others need support and guidance. This workshop will be a place for that to happen. The university has very generously agreed to complement at least three tribal representatives from each nation, and that includes everything from travel, food and accommodations. In short, it's an amazing opportunity.

Vice-Chairman Wadsworth asked if the workshop was open for anyone to attend? He said he thought Sherry Rupert of the American Indian, Alaskan Native Tourism Association, as well as the Nevada Indian Territory would be interested in the Summit. They would love to get either more information on this or even attend or send some sort of representation to talk with the tribes and be able to talk with tribal leaders about economic development opportunities and specifically those regarding tourism.

Director Montooth said she thought the tourism idea was fantastic. She said that for those complementary slots, priority would be given to tribal chairs to their discretion. There will be plenty of room for tribal citizens and any kind of allies or tribal organizations.

Commissioner Emm said that she was planning on attending the Summit and she had reached out to Professor Steinman to offer her assistance if needed.

Commissioner Tiger asked if any Native American associations like the Las Vegas Indian Center or Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada were eligible for the funding to attend the summit? Director Montooth said the Governor's Office just recently announced that several not-for-profit organizations have already applied and some of them have been awarded specific funding from the ARPA funds that are coming to the state. She said she would do her very best to keep everyone posted.

C. Nevada State Liaison Presentation

Fredina Drye-Romero, the Education Program Professional for the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) gave a brief presentation/update to the Commissioners about how her work intersections with our Tribal Nations and community members.

Native American Curriculum Enhancement Project

The American Rescue Plan Act / Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) Stakeholder meetings were held on May 18 and June 7, 2021, as the NDE met with stakeholders to receive feedback to inform the ARP ESSER state plan. Stakeholders included Tribal Education Departments and student United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) groups.

NDE is going to create a Native American Curriculum Enhancement Project which is a way for students to see themselves in a curriculum, as well as providing for all students to be able to learn about the distinct and unique heritage of American Indians, specifically in Nevada, but also those other tribes that come to call Nevada home.

Over the next two years, NDE will work with stakeholders and partners to work on this project and to design and implement curriculum that is not only digitally resourceful, but also in-class ready. The curriculum will have a professional learning component and resources for educators to use in the classroom. And funding will support both digital and in-person learning.

Funding is in place to support a contract with the Education Northwest vendor, as well as for a curriculum development coordinator. They will revive, edit and enhance existing lessons and create new ones. They'll do training on the curriculum as well as create evaluation and assessment methods for data collection on Indian education. The funding will support the needs of educators and college interns, as well as professional in-person opportunities.

Native Youth Community Project

The Native Youth Community Project is a project that prepares students in grades 7-12 for college and careers. It supports three tribal groups in two different geographical locations: the Yerington Paiute Tribe, the Walker River Paiute Tribe, and those students who attend the Yerington schools, along with the Ft. McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribal members who attend the McDermitt Combined School.

The NYCP promotes and prepares students for college and career and promotes the importance of education among community participants and students. This year the NYCP wants to support an in-person UNLV college tour and also a UNR campus visit.

In a collaboration between the Office of Inclusive Education and the Title II Part A Office, one overarching goal is to revitalize tribal languages and to teach the Great Basin Native American language and to have it available in schools. NDE has identified five different locations in the state for implementation. The deliverables will be to have five tribal language speakers attend the American Indian Language Development Institute, AILDI. It's an online summer institute in the College of Education at the University of Arizona. They will be given three credit hours this year and then they will put in for another Title II Grant A to help support the remaining of those six credit hours that are required to have an endorsement to teach. They will be able to bring in consultants to facilitate workshops for all of the language speakers from those five areas, and others that are wanting to come on. NDE will also be able to support some consultants to oversee a community of practice, to provide support to tribal language experts, and to strengthen regional community of indigenous language workers across the state.

Virtual Indian Education Summit

The Indian Education Advisory Committee will assist with the Indian Education Summit that will take place in April 2022. They are partnering with the Nevada Museum of Art in their platform. Updates will be forthcoming.

Ms. Drye-Romero closed by saying she is excited that there is funding to support their initiatives. There's a new director, Julie Bowers, in the Office of Inclusive Education and an improved and updated website. She said she welcomed any and all input from NIC going forward.

X. Unfinished Business (For Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) Approval of Bylaws

Chair Lathouris explained that the particulars of the IEAC Bylaw changes were spelled out in their last meeting. He suggested that a motion be made to open up discussion.

Motion: Approve the Indian Education Advisory Committee Bylaws Amendments

By: Commissioner Emm

Second: Commissioner Krolicki

Members had a discussion before a vote was taken.

Director Montooth explained that in their December meeting, they reviewed the by-laws and came back with two suggestions. She shared a visual showing the changes/amendments proposed.

Vice-Chairman Wadsworth said he didn't mind approving the amendments as presented, but could the group see a finalized fully implemented version of the bylaws at the next meeting?

The Chair asked since Commissioner Emm made the motion, would she like to call? She did.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

B. Land Acknowledgement Protocol and Goals

Director Montooth reminded everyone that in their December meeting, they discussed verbiage for a land acknowledgment. Was there any action they should take now?

Chair Lathouris said potential action would be to post the land acknowledgment to their website and disseminate it with any state agencies. They could also circulate it with tribal leaders just to make sure that there is nothing that they would like to add on to it. The NIC land acknowledgment could be a guidance document and a recommendation for state agencies to start incorporating into their practices. This could probably be something that ultimately will be part of AB 264 policy as well, including the training.

Motion: The Nevada Indian Commission will include the land acknowledgement guidance on its website, and it will disseminate and circulates the guidance with the tribal nations in the State of Nevada and state agencies for comment

By: Chair Lathouris

Second: Commissioner Krolicki

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

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

Director Montooth said she was still waiting for two commissioners to get back to her on an NIC Priorities Survey, and she would share results when all the surveys were completed.

Commission Emm said she thought it would be informational and constructive to have a speaker on the next agenda talking about the state legislative process and how bills are put together. The Chair agreed and said this would be valuable for tribal leaders as well.

Commissioner Tiger asked if they could make legislation a standing item of discussion on future agendas. She asked if they were able to participate in any of the off-session legislative committees that take place where a lot of these BDRs are discussed?

Vice-Chair Wadsworth said that they have a state or tribal legislative day right before the session, and they explain the legislative process of how a bill becomes a law. It would be beneficial to have a pre-legislative tribal session and that way the tribes would be more aware of the process. Maybe they should have a standing tribal legislative or pre-legislative session.

Director Montooth said it sounded like they were looking at two steps. One, the overview of how BDRs become law, and then a second, a follow-up, to discuss what their ideas are, to drill down a little bit and then to get the process rolling for those.

Deputy Wagner said their veterans' legislative symposiums are drawing near. Las Vegas is on 3/19 and Reno is on 3/26. Although it is veteran-specific, it is open to the public. If there are any issues for Native Americans that need a BDR to be passed by the legislature, they are welcome to come. The "meat of the subject" is assembling ideas for bills. The idea list gets prioritized and then provided to the LCB to get off to the legislators. To date, about 65 percent of the bills that go through are passed by the legislature.

Chair Lathouris said he appreciated that information, and if there is a model that works, then the NIC could maybe just kind of recreate it for themselves as well.

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

Future 2022 Nevada Indian Commission Commissioners' meetings are:

Monday, April 25 at 9:30 AM

Monday, July 25 at 9:30 AM

Monday, October 24 at 9:30 AM

XIII. Final Public Comment

Clifford Banuelos, Inter-Tribal Council Nevada announced that the ITCN Executive Board Meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday, February 10th, at 9:30 AM. Agendas for that will be in the pipeline.

Vice-Chairman Wadsworth asked if NIC commissioners could be put on the ITCN mailing list. Mr. Banuelos said he would make sure that happened.

Commissioner Tiger asked if there had been a response from the Secretary of State's Office on the status of the new form to request a polling site for reservations?

Director Montooth replied that the Secretary of State's Office has been very responsive. Right now, they have four tribal nations who have committed to completing the paperwork, and that will bring their total up to nine different reservations that either have a combination or at least one aspect for voting, either early voting site, election day voting site or they have a drop-off place for

voting. They will continue to work together to make sure that all tribal leadership knows about important deadlines.

XIV. Adjournment

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

Motion: Adjourn the January 24th NIC Meeting

By: Vice-Chairman Wadsworth

Second: Chair Lathouris

Vote: Motion passed unanimously