

North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission  
North Dakota State Capitol  
600 E. Blvd Ave, Pioneer Room  
Bismarck ND 58505

April 27, 2022  
1:00 p.m.  
TEAMS Meeting/In Person

## **Call to Order**

1:47 p.m.

## **Roll Call**

Governor Doug Burgum  
Vice-Chair Frank Jamerson, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe  
Chairman Mark Fox, MHA Nation  
Chairman Jamie Azure, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa  
Chairman Doug Yankton, Spirit Lake Nation (joined at 2:15 p.m.)  
Commissioner Dr. Viola LaFontaine  
Commissioner Erica Thunder (joined meeting at 2:25 p.m.)  
Commissioner Leander McDonald  
Nathan Davis, Executive Director North Dakota Indian Affairs

## **Other Attendees**

Reice Haase, Senior Policy Advisor, Governor's office  
Marietta Kemmet, Executive Assistant ND Indian Affairs  
Brad Hawk, Health Systems Program Administrator, ND Indian Affairs  
Colette Brown, Spirit Lake Nation  
Cynthia Monteau, MHA Nation  
Wilberta Red Tomahawk, Standing Rock Sioux  
Brian Kroshus, North Dakota Tax Commissioner  
Greg Hoffman, Deputy Chief Information Officer, North Dakota Information Technology  
Jeb Williams, Director, North Dakota Game and Fish  
Brent Sanford, Lt. Governor  
Trooper Erin Quinn, North Dakota Highway Patrol  
Vanessa Rovig, Project Director Find Safe

## **Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Chairman Mark Fox with an amendment to correct "Good Hope Recovery Center" to correctly read as "Good Road Recovery Center" 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Leander McDonald. Roll call vote and motion passed.

Governor Burgum requested an additional item be added to the agenda. The ND Highway Patrol asked to have a short presentation by Vanessa Rovig, about Project Safe Find. It was agreed to add to agenda.

### **Health Systems Update – Brad Hawk, Health Systems Administrator, ND Indian Affairs**

The implementation of the Behavioral Health strategic plan and the implementation of that plan. The issues are being discussed and the role of our office will ensure that the Tribal nations are at the table and how it will impact the people of the Tribes. Working with the Health Equity office and Department of Health and have created a Tribal Health Liaison program. The Oral Health Coalition is always being rebooted for improving oral health in North Dakota, formalizing the pieces of the group is constructed, how it can impact the legislature, providers available to the Tribes. The committee will be looking at any policy changes to bring forth. The waiver for the 16-bed limitation is also being addressed.

### **Project Find Safe, Director Vanessa Rovig**

Vanessa is at Minot State University with the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities. The center is partnering with the ND Highway Patrol and law enforcement agencies to introduce Project Life Save. The band will be tracked with the GPS tracker. The primary target is with young children with autism, Alzheimer's, traumatic brain injury, the program reaches across all ages. The cost of the kits and receiver, the benefits, and the working of the program were presented. The tracking system is coordinated by Project Safe Find and the personal information is shared only with law enforcement as needed.

### **Brian Kroshus, North Dakota Tax Commissioner**

Commissioner Kroshus briefly introduced himself and details on his journey to Tax Commissioner. The challenges and success stories on the tax issues with the tribes was also mentioned. He has been learning about past process and looking for ways to improve the processes. The partnership with the Tribes is excellent and hopes to continue improving those relationships. Communication is key and understanding why something is done. Internet sales in Indian Country and the taxes are applied, but tribes are not being involved in the equation. The motor fuels sales are another area of concern and bulk fuel sales need to be included in the tax equation. Indirect sales tax collection by the state is another issue, a tax cannot be charged to a tribal member involved in sales on tribal land.

### **Strategic Plan North Dakota Indian Affairs, Executive Director Nathan Davis**

At the previous meeting items issues that needed further exploration include:

- Dates to meet with the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library team and tribal members for further discussion are being coordinated

- Dave Krabbenhoft, Department of Corrections, and the culturally appropriate approach regarding residents in the state system of corrections. In-person meetings with Spirit Lake and Turtle Mountain as it relates to the initiative.

### **Infrastructure Investment and Job Act (IIJA) Update**

Director Davis shared a PowerPoint presentation that shows the overall aims of the IIJA. He explained the different opportunities for collaboration and the benefits for all involved.

Motion by Chairman Fox to create a committee with commission members to explore grant opportunities and collaborate grant writing. Seconded by Frank Jamerson. Roll call, motion carried.

### **Agency Updates**

#### **North Dakota Information Technology - *Greg Hoffman, Deputy Chief Information Officer***

Mr. Hoffman showed the organizational chart for NDIT. The various services offered by IT was discussed with the group. The roadmap for the future was explained and the progress so far and yet to be made. The existing partnerships and the programs being utilized because of this Memorandum of Understanding with the Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation. Executive sessions are allowed by the legislature to discuss cyber security. Federal opportunities for cyber security were conveyed to the group and the amount of dollars available for this item.

#### **North Dakota Game and Fish Department- *Jeb Williams, Director***

Mr. Williams shared with the group the interest of the big-horn sheep that were relocated to MHA has been generating. Chairman Fox shared that they have acquired more land for the project. A brief overview of Game and Fish was presented by the director and variety of partners involved with their agency. Chairman Fox asked about the agreement with Game and Fish and Mr. Williams responded it had just been renewed on April 1 and valid for one year. Chairman Fox questioned the diplomacy used by Game and Fish at times and recommended an in-service training. Chairman Fox commented on the disappointment the lack of the fish tagging that was used to promote tourism. Mr. Williams will work with his staff to determine numbers of catch and share this data. Vice-Chair Jamerson stated that the low water ramps and levels on Standing Rock is a concern and asked for assistance by the Game and Fish.

### **Tribal Leader Updates**

#### **Spirit Lake Tribe**

Chairman Yankton congratulated Reice and Kyle on their new employment opportunities. Updates included the Class B Championship Four Winds basketball team, 27-0. Projects included gaming and regulations, law enforcement MOAs with the ND Highway Patrol and the benefit that will help both the Tribe and the people of North Dakota. Governor Burgum asked of the number of BIA agents and Chairman Yankton responded that there was one and shared with Turtle Mountain.

## **Standing Rock Sioux Tribe**

Vice-Chair Jamerson had Chairwoman Alkire on the phone, and she reported on the events happening in Washington, D.C., and the medical campus discussion. Vice-Chair shared the issues on law enforcement happening on Standing Rock, the image of Bureau of Indian Affairs and connotations it implies, and let the governor know that the Tribe appreciates the cooperation between the Governor's office and Standing Rock is very much appreciated.

## **Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation**

Chairman Fox appreciates and values the meetings that are held with the group. EV charging stations and gaming issues needing to be discussed, the placement of a bridge on the south end of the reservation that is being requested by industry. Different proposals were discussed and the pros and cons of each location. Workforce development, health care and the fight against drugs are high on the list of items that need to be addressed. He also addressed racism and its affect on everyone, identifying, recognizing the problem and make deliberate efforts to stop racism. He is concerned about the growing focus on racial/racist activities. He thanked Reice Haas or his work with the Tribes. Commissioner Slater talked about the process of addressing racism and her talks with Senate Leadership.

## **Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa**

No one at the meeting to report

## **Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate**

No one at the meeting to report

## **Commission Member Updates:**

President McDonald reported the official name change from United Tribal Colleges to North Dakota Tribal System and denotes the work for the future process. June 22-25 is a Commission on Native Children will be holding a Great Plains meeting on campus. The Good Road Recovery and housing facilities are being planned during the meeting. Actual testimony will be June 23 and 24.

Dr. Slater commented about the vision plan presented by Commission Davis. How do we get people working together and team building? She talked about racism and how it begins when children are exposed to racism from an early age in the home. Education and teaching children about equity is important and diversity is to be embraced not cast off.

Meeting adjourned 5:06 p.m.

## **Upcoming Agenda Items:**

Cyber security

## **Action items:**

Grant opportunities cooperation with State/Chairman/Reps

Game and Fish – low water levels, personnel interactions, Lake Oahu

Joint training for Tribal/Game and Fish

Gaming contact at Attorney General's office

Motion by Chairman Fox to approve minutes from March 27, 2022 with the changes “Good Hope Recovery Center to Good Hope Recovery Center”

Second by Dr. McDonald

Roll call vote

Member	Yes	No	Absent
Dr. Viola LaFontaine	X		
Chairman Jamie Azure	X		
Chairman Mark Fox	X		
Vice-Chair Frank Jamerson	X		
Chairman Delbert Hopkins, Jr.			X
Erica Thunder			x
Dr. Leander McDonald			X
Governor Doug Burgum	X		

Motion passed

Motion made by Chairman Fox to create a committee to explore joint operation with State and Tribal entities for grant opportunities

Second by Vice-Chairman Jamerson

Roll call vote

Member	Yes	No	Absent
Chairman Jamie Azure	X		
Vice-Chair Frank Jamerson	X		
Chairman Mark Fox	X		
Dr. Leander McDonald	X		
Dr. Viola LaFontaine	X		
Chairman Delbert Hopkins, Jr.			X
Erica Thunder	X		
Governor Doug Burgum	X		

Motion

Second

Roll call vote

Member	Yes	No	Absent
Vice-Chair Frank Jamerson			
Dr. Leander McDonald			
Dr. Viola LaFontaine			
Chairman Mark Fox			
Erica Thunder			
Chairman Delbert Hopkins, Jr.			
Chairman Jamie Azure			
Governor Doug Burgum			