

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

February 28, 2024  
1:00 pm

### **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 1:15

Opening prayer by Dr. Viola Slater

### **Roll Call**

Member	Present	Absent
Chairman Jamie Azure – Alysia LaCounte representing	X	
Chairman J. Garret Renville		X
Chairman Mark Fox		X
Chairwoman Janet Alkire- Vice-Chair Frank Jamerson representing	X	
Chairwoman Lonna Jackson-Street		x
Erica Thunder	X	
Dr. Viola Slater	X	
Dr. Leander McDonald	X	
Brad Hawk, Executive Director	X	
Governor Doug Burgum	X	

### **Other Attendees**

Tammy Miller, LT. Governor  
Marietta Kemmet, Executive Assistant ND Indian Affairs  
John Reiten, Policy Advisor, Governor’s Office  
Anthony Bauer, Deputy Director, ND Indian Affairs

### **Approval of Agenda**

Agenda was approved as presented.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Dr. Viola Slater to approve minutes from November 20, 2023, meeting, seconded by Erica Thunder. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

#### **Governor Doug Burgum**

Welcomed the group and expressed gratitude for the work that has been accomplished with the Tribal entities and all the collaboration that has occurred. He highlighted the different areas that have had the focus, health care and education. He suggested including the Tribal Colleges in the Strategic Plan, like

what is currently being done with the University System. The topic of creating a northern training facility for BIA at Camp Grafton was discussed. An invitation was extended to those in attendance to meet with the Bush Foundation as there will be a retreat/tour in August.

### **Lt Governor Tammy Miller**

Welcomed the group and looked forward to the meeting and the presentations in today's meeting.

### **Brad Hawk, Executive Director**

Welcomed the members and mentioned the changes occurring in the office, Anthony Bauer is now the Deputy Director and the position for Economic and Workforce Development Specialist has just closed, and the goal is to fill the position soon. Work has started on the Strategic Plan and the upcoming legislative session. Upcoming projects include the Hall of Honor and moving the program from September to November.

Representatives from the North Dakota Native Tourism Alliance, Stacey LaCompte, Les Thomas, Kiera Fox spoke about their previous event and upcoming plans to expand the event to a two-day event. It will be held November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and hosted by Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa at the Heritage Center.

A list of topics for the Government-to-Government conference was shared. Topics were suggested by members in attendance. The event will be held June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at the Bismarck Event Center, the registration will be free, but stressed the need for registration to ensure adequate food for the event.

### **Anthony Bauer, Deputy Director**

Some of the projects ongoing were shared with the group, this includes grant streamlining process, Workforce Development Council and identifying the barriers in the tribal communities, youth presentations on food preservation and cultural foods, broadband issues and concerns, energy projects, and UND reparations and the status of this process.

## **New Business**

### **Brian Opp, Department of Commerce, Tech Systems**

A brief introduction by Brian gave an overview of what type of work he performs with the Commerce Department. A PowerPoint presentation defined what exactly autonomy is and examples of what it can do. (attached) A guest joining was Tony Dirks, VP of Strategy and Business Development for American Aerospace Technologies, Inc. He thanked the commission for allowing him to be a part of the meeting and shared his companies background and how it relates to the oil and gas industries and technologies are used in this field.

### **Brad Hawk, NDIAC, Agency Strategic Plan Review**

Director Hawk shared the Strategic plan and more definitive steps to take to address the issues. One issue is a more formalized connection to other state agencies. Comments were heard about the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage fund and the legacy funds. The Legacy funds, the amount collected from the Tribe and how it will be invested in North Dakota and if it could possibly be used for Tourism might need to be included in action items. The variety of tools that can be used include a newsletter, conference,

and meeting requests that are arranged. There is nothing set on paper and the goal is to create a method for meeting these needs.

### **Vanessa Rovig, Project Life Save/Find Safe**

An update was given on the Justice Grant and its successful completion. A PowerPoint presentation was shared with the group (Attached). Questions were asked about the types of services available and how to best serve the communities.

## **Tribal Leader Updates**

### **Spirit Lake Tribe**

No update as no representative was in attendance.

### **Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate**

No update as no representative was in attendance.

### **Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation (MHA)**

No update as no representative was in attendance.

### **Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa**

Alysia LaCounte representing Jamie Azure updated on the plants upgrades at the manufacturing facility. The bid information from Department of Commerce was greatly appreciated and the assistance to secure the grant. Partnerships with the ND Highway Patrol/County law enforcement is a work in progress and the need to secure BIA officers is ongoing. The comprehensive physical therapy is ongoing and are approximately ½ way through the community-based treatment facility for youth that are displaced which will provide support for delinquent at risk youth. Water park is operating, and work is progressing on the marketing program. A request was made to use the LIHEAP program and how data is assessed and collected. A study has been started by the Department of Transportation on Hwy 281 as requested.

### **Standing Rock Sioux Tribe**

Vice Chairman, Frank Jamerson, introduced two members from Standing Rock, Alberta Red Tomahawk and Kendrick Eagle. Ms. Tomahawk asked for assistance concerning the road conditions on the Reservation and the need for signage on the highways and to bring visibility to the sides with rumble strips. Also, she asked for training assistance from the Highway Department. The 911 towers are still a work a concern and the calls are still being routed to the Mobridge call center instead of Burleigh County. Question was asked for traffic at the Casino post Covid and response was an increase has been noted. Mr. Eagle, External Affairs officer, shared his progress working with both North and South Dakota officials. Mr. Jamerson updated the group on the activities happening on the Reservation. The Casino has a new steak house and VIP lounge. The initiative has been signed for the start of two greenhouses, coal stewardship management is in progress, grasslands talks are progressing, buffalo initiatives is in development. Two new snowplows have been acquired. A new college president has been installed at Sitting Bull College, Tommy Kay Philips. In June the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Treaty Council Meeting will be held. Ground has been broken for construction of new ambulance base in McLaughlin. A building committee is moving forward with all the new projects. Still looking for support for a health care facility for Standing Rock and the bridge discussion between Emmons County and Sioux County and how it can impact the

economy. Law Enforcement and lack of officers is still a concern and a topic of great discussion between the Tribes, the Federal government, and entities. Drugs and the problems with the increase in drug trafficking continues to be a concern. Mr. Jamerson thanked Governor Burgum for his support and his continued involvement with the Tribe. He again requested for Governor Burgum to meet with the Council at the same time Governor Noem can be there. Tourism will be revived to share the history of the Standing Rock Sioux reservation.

## **At Large-Commission Member Updates**

Dr. Leander McDonald explained the funding that has been received and how it will be utilized in the Tribal Colleges. He discussed the Tribal Colleges apprenticeship program and the progress that has been made with the use of those funds. An award from the Mellon Foundation was also received in the amount of \$1 million to focus on creating a digital archiving capacity, focusing on enhancing language and cultural revitalization. There has been exploration to create a BIA training facility at United Tribes and the response was there is not enough capacity to meet the criteria of the training needs.

Dr. Viola Slater shared the value of the meetings and the discussions held. She shared the upcoming events, Government-to-Government and the ND Indian Education summit and the value of having these events to connect the Tribal communities and State/Local/Federal entities. She shared the fact that there are over 7,700 Native American Students in public schools, as well as over 400 in private and 1,500 in BIE schools. She stressed that to reach students with who are struggling it has to be a community effort to combat the issues.

Eric Thunder introduced herself to the committee and her current position with the Department of Corrections. The two priorities are conversations between Parole and Probation and Tribal Communities. The goal is to create an MOU like the one in place with the North Dakota Highway Patrol and the collaboration DOCR is seeking. Progress is being made at a slow and steady pace in this endeavor. The high number of Native American women incarcerated creates a lot of gaps in the communities in childcare. She asked for tribal input concerning the new women's facility to be built. They are wanting to be culturally significant in the future. Colby Braun talked about the percentage of Native Americans currently incarcerated and incorporating cultural into the design, construction, and operation for the facility. There will be a huge focus on family. Ms. Thunder talked about the collaboration factor with the Tribal Colleges and the opportunities that can be made available to the women incarcerated.

Lt. Governor Tammy Miller requested timely responses from members on preferred dates for May and August.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 pm