

North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Ave. Dept 316
Bismarck, ND 58505-0300

March 25, 2021
1:00 p.m.
TEAMS Meeting

Call to Order

Attendees

Governor Doug Burgum, Chairman Mark Fox, Three Affiliated - MHA Nation; Chairman Mike Faith, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; Chairman Doug Yankton, Spirit Lake Nation (joined at 2:50 pm); Commissioner Dr. Viola LaFontaine, Commissioner Erica Thunder, Commissioner Leander McDonald, Executive Director, Scott Davis, North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission

Other Attendees

Reice Haase, Tammy Miller, Bradley Hawk, Kyle Iron Lightning, Marietta Kemmet, Leslie Oliver, Nathan Davis, Collette Brown, John Fredericks, III

Opening remarks – Governor Burgum

Governor Burgum welcomed all participants and gave thanks to Scott Davis for his service to the State of North Dakota. The Executive Director position will be posted and asked members to promote the position to those people who may be interested in applying.

Legislative Update

Scott Davis highlighted bills and the tracking process. He encouraged anyone with questions on any bill to contact our office for assistance. Bills highlighted in blue have passed and signed, yellow have failed and white highlighted are still in process. He pointed out bills that are currently being watched closely. Chairman Fox asked which bill related to the alcohol agreement and the issue on dual taxation on alcohol. Mr. Davis responded the wording on the bill may have confused some legislators and the formula was a concern. Commission LaFontaine volunteered to assist if needed with the education bill. Mr. Fredericks clarified the wording concerning the regulatory authority and fixing allocation aspect. Chairman Faith asked if the tribes could receive the bills sooner to enable for revisions and clarification. Governor Burgum asked for feedback on the vaccinations. Chairman Faith thanked the Governor for the support from all the state agencies for their assistance in the COVID arena. Mr. Davis asked for Chairman Faith to comment on the bison transfer situation. Chairman Faith shared the efforts to come to common ground and the possibility of pulling their permit concerning transport. Governor Burgum shared the weekly meetings with leadership have been used to discuss the slot machine bill and the moratorium.

Update

Commissioner LaFontaine updated the numbers of testing/vaccination at Trenton Indian Service Area. Education pieces have been used in the clinic on the COVID issue. The supply of vaccinations is received from Indian Health and supply.

Commission McDonald related steps that have been taken and will be taking to encourage immunization.

Commissioner Thunder updates contact relating SB2304 have been received inquiries. Commissioner has been asked to be part of a new Tribal Liaison Officer within the ND Highway Patrol.

Councilman Nathan Davis shared updates from Turtle Mountain include shifting local development instead of pandemic response, trying to transition to day-to-day activities. The educational formula is receiving attention and the reinstatement of language into bills to the health bills. The mobile health unit will be opening soon and the vaccine supplies availability. There is concern over the funding formula for education.

Director Davis commented on Tribal owned businesses regarding the CARES act. One barrier was the proof of a certified by the state and are tribally certified. He asked about the possibility of this being solved by allowing tribally or TERO certified businesses.

Reice Haas stated that gaming is a big part of this session and the continued monitoring, oil and gas for MHA.

Tammy Miller informed the group that there is a document with the job posting for the Executive Director's position and asked for the support of Tribal chairs sharing the listing.

Closing Comments

Chairman Fox recommended that members secure a transcript of the Department of Interior conference call taking place at the same time as this meeting. He raised the concern on the redistricting bills. There was an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) issue, and it is being ignored by a court out of Williston and the Social Services of Williams County. The Tribes are being ignored in the process in these situations. He commended the governor on the vaccine and testing processes and the possibility of a new push using data regarding side effects and reactions. He expressed concerns about the public's perception that the COVID epidemic is done. There was a new emergency building opened in Mandaree that will be used for providing services in the area. The transitional living center has opened in Bismarck and the Cultural Center opening on May 19th. Governor Burgum asked to be kept updated on the greenhouse project.

Tammy Miller shared there is data available through the Department of Health and the effectiveness of wastewater testing to assist indications of potential outbreaks.

Mr. Iron Lightning shared that House Bill 1035 has wording to reflect the ICWA language conflict.

Governor Burgum thanked Director Davis for his service to all.

Motion by Dr. LaFontaine, 2nd by Chairman Fox, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.