

**State Tribal Economic Development Commission**

March 28, 2018

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes



**Commissioners Present:**

Richard Sangrey (Vice-Chair), Shelly Fyant, Lonnie Headdress, Ken Fichtler and Jason Smith

**On Conference Call:**

Shawn Real Bird (Chair)

**Staff Present:**

Pam Haxby-Cote (Commerce Director), Casey Winn Lozar, Heather Sobrepena, Philip Belangie and Billie LeDeau

**Invited Guests/Presenters:**

Michael LaValley, Staffer for Senator Tester; Desirae Baker, Americorps Vista Volunteer at Rural Dynamics Great Falls; and Roy Peterson, Traffic & Safety Bureau Chief, Montana Department of Transportation

Roll call and quorum established.

**Welcome/Purpose of Gathering:**

Meeting started at 9:25 am. Welcome and invocation by Vice-Chair Richard Sangrey, Rocky Boy Chippewa Cree Tribe. Casey Winn Lozar provided an overview of the STEDC agenda.

**Approval of October 1, 2017 Minutes Actions Thereon:**

***Motion: Commissioner Shelly Fyant motioned to accept the October 1, 2017 minutes as presented.***

***Seconded by: Lonnie Headdress. Motion passes unanimously.***

**OICED Program Reports:** Heather Sobrepena reported on the Office of Indian Country Economic Development Programs including an overview of FY 2018 budget.

Each commissioner was presented with a copy of their specific tribal government and tribal community contracts including the Native American Business Advisor, Tribal Business Planning Grant, Montana Indian Language, Montana Indian Youth Small Business, Montana, and STED Indian Equity Fund programs with details on award amounts, draw downs, project descriptions, tribal project contacts, deadlines, and remaining funds to be drawn on each contract.

**Montana Indian Language Program Update:**

Billie LeDeau reported that all MILP contracts have been executed with the exception of the Crow Tribe.

Commissioner Jason Smith questioned why the Crow MILP contract has not been signed. Casey Lozar explained that there was change in program management for the Crow Education Department resulting in a slow start. The Crow Education Department and the Crow Language Consortium equally decided to share the Crow MILP funds with two separate projects; (1) the Crow Language Department will produce Crow Lullabies curriculum for the local schools and colleges and (2) the Crow Language Consortium will continue their work to expand on their online dictionary and audio clips at <http://forum.crowlanguage.org/>.

**NACS, NABA and IEF:** Philip Belangie provided an update on the Native American Collateral Support, Native American Business Advisors (NABA) and Indian Equity Fund grants.

NACS recently supported the Crow Country Outfitters and Guides and the Bloom Montessori in Helena.

Commissioner Richard Sangrey asked if the Indian Equity Funds needed a 1:1 match. Philip explained that there is a 1:1 match requirement but it can include in-kind assets. The Blackfeet Tribal Business Committee was under the assumption tribal members needed a \$7,000 cash match.

**Tribal Tourism Update:** Casey Lozar presented SB309 – Indian Tourism and STED Commission Tourism workplan recommendations to the Commission.

Last session, SB 309 sponsored by Senator Lea Whitford, created an Indian Country tourism region, added another Native representative to the Tourism Advisory Council and established funding for the STED Commission to “expand tourism activities and visitation in the Indian tourism region.”

**Funding Source:** .5% of Lodging and Facility Use Tax (bed tax) which was cut from Commerce’s bed-tax funded marketing budget.

**Appropriation:** Fiscal year appropriation with set authority level of \$110,000 in 2018 and \$120,000 in 2019. Commerce will request that appropriation becomes biennial statutory appropriation starting with 2021 biennium.

**Summary of Activities:**

Activities	FY 18
1. Tribal Tourism Guidebook-Layout, Design and Coordination	\$35,000
1. Tribal Tourism Guidebook-Content Development	\$12,500
1. Tribal Tourism Guidebook-Printing	\$30,000
2. Industry Membership-ITAC, CGIA, and AIANTA	\$500
3. Familiarization Tour-RMI/Flathead	\$2,000
4. Social Media Marketing Promotion-Indian Relay episode	\$5,000
5. Joint Venture Media Buy	\$10,000
6. Photography	\$14,000
7. Crown of the Continent Map	\$1,000
Total	\$110,000

Heather Sobrepena introduced the new Indian Relay “Racing with Tradition” episode. Video can be found on YouTube at [https://youtu.be/0mB\\_wA3MKTw](https://youtu.be/0mB_wA3MKTw).

**Approval of SB309 – Indian Tourism and STED Commission Tourism workplan Thereon:**

**Motion:** Jason Smith motioned to accept the Tribal Tourism Workplan as presented.

**Seconded by:** Lonnie Headdress. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

Casey Lozar reported that the applications for the new Tribal Tourism Officer position are currently under review. The MOBTD received many outstanding applications and the position will be filled in April 2018.

Casey Lozar introduced Raylee Honeycutt, Consumer Marketing Manager for the Montana Office of Business & Tourism Bureau. Raylee reported that 2.5 million visitors visited the VisitMT.com website last year. Raylee expressed the need for updated content of business listings and photos on the website.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Desarae Baker, Americorps Vista volunteer at Rural Dynamics of Great Falls presented the National Native American Hall of Fame VISTA project. The project aims to foster new economic opportunities for Native Americans. Using the inspirational leadership of the Hall of Fame inductees and guidance from Montana’s

Native communities, this project will develop a comprehensive “toolkit” to illuminate pathways that end intergenerational poverty.

Desarae is seeking the guidance of the STED Commissioners to help identify education partners she can work with to support the project. Commissioners provided a short list of people she can contact in their respective communities.

Roy Peterson, Traffic & Safety Bureau Chief at the Montana Department of Transportation, presented background information on the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways.

The STED Commission is exploring ways and ideas to support Tribe’s requests for greater wayfinding and use of Native language for geographical identification along major thoroughfares through reservation, providing ‘sense of place’ for travelers. Roy explained that currently, dual language signs are not allowed under federal rule. The addition of dual language sign parameters has been discussed in the past but hasn’t gained any traction.

**Approval to pursue drafting letters to Montana’s Congressional delegation from the Commission and to provide a draft letter template to the Tribes in support of the inclusion of dual language signs parameters in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways Actions Thereon:**

***Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Shelly Fyant.***

***Seconded by: Jason Smith. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.***

**OLD BUSINESS**

Casey Lozar reminded the Commission that many of the STED Commission member terms are set to expire on June 30, 2018.

Heather informed the Commission that the OICED/STEDC/MILP Rotunda Day has been scheduled on February 15, 2019, during the 2019 Montana Legislative Session.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Office of Indian Country Economic Development (OICED) is conducting tribal tours to meet with tribal councils, prospective partners and OICED tribal programs. OICED program staff met with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes on February 12-13, Fort Peck Tribes on March 12-13 and will meet with the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council on April 4-5.

Heather introduced and provided a copy of the new OICED Program Resources booklet to the Commission. <http://marketmt.com/Portals/129/shared/ICP/docs/ICEDProgramBooklet.pdf>

**Adjourn**

***Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Sangrey.***

***Seconded by: Commissioner Lonnie Headdress to adjourn the meeting. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passes.***