

# NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

*Friday, September 4, 2015 - 9:00am*

Nevada Indian Commission Office, 5500 Snyder Ave., Carson City, NV 89701

## **Commissioners Present:**

Richard Arnold, Chairman  
Kathleen Quasula, Commissioner  
John Hansen, Commissioner

## **Staff Present:**

Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director  
Chris Gibbons, Program Officer I  
Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant III  
Kate Krolicki, Youth Intern

## **Guests Present:**

Nic K. Danna, Director, Attorney General's Office of Military Legal Assistance  
Daryl Crawford, Executive Director, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada  
Wayne Howle, Senior Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

## **I. Convene Meeting & Roll Call**

Chairman Arnold convened the meeting at 9:30 am and asked Sherry to take roll. Three Commissioners were present, establishing a quorum.

## **II. Invocation**

Daryl Crawford provided the invocation.

## **III. Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Arnold asked all those present to introduce themselves and thanked everyone for attending.

## **IV. Initial Public Comment**

There was no initial public comment.

## **V. Approval of September 26, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Arnold noted that the minutes were provided in advance of the meeting.

**Commissioner Hansen motioned to approve the September 26, 2014 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Quasula. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).**

## **VI. Approval of January 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Arnold noted that the minutes were provided in advance of the meeting

**Commissioner Hansen motioned to approve the January 15, 2015 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Quasula. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).**

## **VII. Approval of May 27, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Arnold noted that these minutes were submitted in advance of the meeting.

**Commissioner Hansen motioned to approve the May 27, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Quasula. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).**

## **VIII. Commissioner Reports and Announcements**

Commissioner Hansen noted that he is a National Service Officer and is going to be visiting Ft. McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, Battle Mountain Band and Walker River Paiute Tribe. They are outreaching to Nevada's American Indian veterans.

Commissioner Quasula noted that she now has her own law practice, Kathleen Bliss Law Group. She has been working with Chris on the last Stewart meeting. She thanked Chris for her service.

Chairman Arnold mentioned Yucca Mountain and that the state has been working with the tribes through the Blue Ribbon Commission. This is supposed to be consent-based siting. Yucca Mountain was selected as a repository at one point and then taken out of consideration. The state and tribes were in opposition of it becoming a repository. If Yucca Mountain were considered again, they would have to consider prior comments. There will be a lot of future discussion on this.

Chairman Arnold also mentioned the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and that California has revised their California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and considers tribal cultural landscapes. This opens some doors for tribes to be involved, and Nevada may want to look at the California law and see if it can be adapted for Nevada. The Indian Commission may want to consider entertaining some discussions on this.

## **IX. Introduction and Presentation on the Attorney General's office of Military Legal Assistance**

Mr. Nic Danna from the Attorney General's Office introduced himself as a U.S. Army Captain and reservist, former gang prosecutor in Los Angeles, spending the bulk of his legal career in California. He has known Attorney General Laxalt for a long time. They saw a huge gap for veterans, and active duty military service members and legal service. The military doesn't have money to hire legal services/attorneys. The service members that come back from war have no recourse when their jobs have been given to somebody else. The Green Zone initiative did a survey, and found that service members needed affordable legal care. They created a public private partnership, for those service members that need legal assistance. The administration is fiscally conservative; the only thing coming out of general fund is Mr. Danna's salary. They don't hire attorneys, this is all pro bono, and they now have 150 attorneys that are participating. They have had 19 cases since July 1<sup>st</sup>. They have affiliated with every pro bono program in the state. To participate in this program, veterans must go through the Department of Veterans Services and then they will direct them to this program. Active duty service members will go through their JAG for services. This program covers wills and powers of attorney, landlord tenant, consumer protection, bankruptcy, immigration, etc. They are excited about the program. The legislation is a legacy for Nevada, and is critically important. He has never seen a state that cares more for about their veterans than Nevada does. Mr. Danna thanked the commission for the time and looks forward to the opportunity to speak with American Indian veterans on the reservations. He wants to make sure that everybody knows about this program. He will forward a copy of the intake form that veterans have to sign, OMLA guidelines, Adam's letter and Nic's contact information. He also mentioned that if we come across veterans that need assistance, the Department of Veteran's Affairs is who should be called. He also offered that if there are any questions at all, he can be called.

Kathleen mentioned that she knows a whole bunch of people that could sign up for this program. She commented that the non-native public doesn't understand the high percentage of Native veterans that have served.

Sherry mentioned that she spoke with Mr. Danna at an earlier date in regard to this program. She also mentioned that she has been having Kate work on a native veteran's list serve that will eventually include tribal veteran's organizations and individual tribal veterans. This could serve to provide information on programs such as this that are available to veterans. She also mentioned that it may be a good idea to have Nic present to the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada and if he wanted to visit the tribal communities, that she would be more than happy to make introductions.

Commissioner Hansen stated that he has secured \$5,000 to hold an Indian Summit. He would like to work with Sherry to coordinate the summit at the Stewart Indian School. There were approximately 75 veterans who attended that event, but it was right around the time that Chairman Wayne Burke had passed away. Mr. Danna would be willing to participate in this type of event, and mentioned that Kat Miller, Director, Department of Veteran's Services may also be interested.

Mr. Danna also mentioned that the Attorney General's Office could have NIC as an affiliate partner; on their website. They are launching a new website in November.

Commissioner Quasula commented that the Nevada Bar Association now has a Native American section; predominately north. She will email Nic on this, so he can get on the list. Mr. Danna noted that his email is [ndanna@ag.nv.gov](mailto:ndanna@ag.nv.gov).

Chairman Arnold commented that the Commission is involved in a variety of issues affecting Nevada's tribes, that a Veteran's Committee may be something that the NIC should consider. And, or if these issues are addressed at the ITCN then we could be a part. He also suggested that a poster or brochure be developed on this program that could be given to tribes, along with development of a webpage and link to the Attorney General's webpage. Sherry suggested that the Indian Commission could create a page for veterans.

Mr. Danna offered that the NIC could call him with any type of question that anyone has. He can help direct the NIC and others to the correct resources.

Chairman Arnold asked Mr. Danna if other states also offer these services to veterans. Mr. Danna responded that Nevada is the first state to do this.

## **X. Executive Director Report – Sherry L. Rupert**

Sherry briefly shared highlights from her report.

Chairman Arnold commented that the Stewart Indian School could be a great place to hold business retreats for some entities.

Chairman Arnold again mentioned California's CEQA that has a provision for cultural landscapes. This may be something that the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Summit Planning Committee may want to consider for the Summit.

Sherry asked the Commissioners if they would support the American Indian Achievement Award Banquet and Silent Auction at the same level they agreed to last year. She encouraged everyone to support the event. There was concurrence by the rest of the Commissioners to support the banquet with a \$150 contribution for 2 seats at the Commissioner table and a business card ad in the event program.

Commissioner Quasula commented on the American Indian exhibit at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. She had seen the exhibit in the morning and commented on how well done it was and how beautiful the cradleboard was. Chairman Arnold added that by having the exhibit there that it reinforces that there are American Indians in Nevada. And, even if those people don't stop; they see it. Commissioner Quasula reminded that the McCarran International Airport now needs a permanent American Indian exhibit.

Sherry briefly went through the current budget status reports for the NIC budget and gift account. Sherry also presented the Commission with a copy of the Legislatively Approved Budgets for the NIC (Budget Account 2600) and for the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy (Budget Account 2601), noting changes from the prior biennium.

A. Introduction of New Nevada Indian Commission Website ([nic.nv.gov](http://nic.nv.gov))

Sherry shared the new NIC website with Commissioners, showing them all of the new features that had been added. The website is much more user-friendly and vibrant with photos and video.

Daryl Crawford commented that he had used the new website to access today's board agenda.

Commissioner Quasula commented that Sherry consider sharing the new website with the state's educators and school districts so they know what is available to them on this website. She also said that the website is impressive and needs to be shown off. Sherry also asked the Commissioners to let her know if they would like to add anything else to the website.

**Commissioner Hansen motioned to approve the Executive Director report as presented, seconded by Commissioner Quasula. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).**

## XI. STEWART INDIAN SCHOOL

A. Possible Approval of Stewart Advisory Committee Appointment of Representative Forms

Sherry presented five (5) forms for approval: Marilyn Symonds, Rachel K. Malloy, Buck Sampson, Meg McDonald, and Don "Skip" Canfield.

Chairman Arnold suggested adding a section on the form saying what slot this committee member fills.

**Commissioner Hansen motioned to approve the Appointment of Representative Forms for Marilyn Symonds, Rachel K. Malloy, Buck Sampson, Meg McDonald, and Don "Skip" Canfield, seconded by Commissioner Quasula. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).**

B. Approval of Report on Stewart History and Preservation Project

Chris went over her written report with the Commissioners.

Chairman Arnold asked if there are any Stewart yearbooks online. Chris replied that the Commission has yearbooks, but they are not currently online. He also mentioned that the Commission could replicate the yearbooks and have them available for sale as a fundraiser. This is something that the Commission is working toward.

**Commissioner Hansen motioned to approve the Stewart History and Preservation Project report as presented and submitted by Chris Ann Gibbons, seconded by Commissioner Quasula. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).**

C. Introduction of the New Stewart Indian School Website ([StewartIndianSchool.com](http://StewartIndianSchool.com))

The Stewart Indian School website was reviewed under the Executive Director report.

D. Report on the 2015 Stewart Father's Day Powwow

Sherry also reported on the 2015 Stewart Father's Day Powwow under the Executive Director report.

## **XII. Report on Indian Territory Projects and Activities**

Chris Gibbons, Treasurer for the Indian Territory provided the Commission with a written report. She briefly went through the highlights of her report.

Chairman Arnold mentioned that there is another site that could be added; the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge. It would be a great addition to the southern Nevada itineraries. Chris mentioned that Mr. Scott Carey from Travel Nevada worked very hard on these itineraries, and she will get this addition to him. Richard thought it would be interesting to do something with all the tribal names that have been used to name the towns throughout Nevada.

## **XIII. Update on Combining the Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee (TECAC) and the Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC)**

Sherry explained that both the TECAC and IEAC committees did not meet over the summer, so there no written reports submitted and no resolution to the merger.

**Commissioner Hansen motioned to table this to the next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Quasula. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).**

## **XIV. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Suggestions for future agenda items included: Report back on TECAC and IEAC merger, an update on the Stewart non-profit, an update on TEK listening sessions and meeting minutes. Any other requests for agenda items can be forwarded to Sherry.

Chairman Arnold inquired whether it was premature to discuss whether the NIC should create both a TEK Advisory Committee and a Veteran's Advisory Committee. Sherry will discuss with the TEK Summit Planning Committee whether this will be a continuing committee and where it will be housed. She also thought that this might be one of the outcomes of the 2016 TEK Summit. Commissioner Hansen commented that there has been discussion of having a subcommittee for Native Veterans under the Veteran's Services Commission. He will check on this.

## **XV. Scheduling and Location of Next NIC Meeting**

The next Nevada Indian Commission Board Meetings were scheduled *tentatively* for December 2, 2015, March 2, 2016 and June 1, 2016 to begin at 9:30am to accommodate travel.

## **XVI. Final Public Comment**

Daryl Crawford mentioned that there will be a Health Board meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2015 and they are working on a specialty care facility for tribal members that often cannot be referred out. Also, the following week September 15-17, 2015 he is working with Sarah Adler on a housing meeting with the tribes. That same week on September 15-16, 2015 the ITCN Domestic Violence Department will be hosting a conference at the Sparks Nugget. There will be no registration fee for this conference. He also reported that there will be no annual convention this year, as there was no budget and they are going through several staff changes. The Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) will regroup for next year and in the interim, tribes will participate in other meetings. He also mentioned that the ITCN had a clean audit. Additionally, Sarah Adler would like to hold a tribal economic development meeting and the ITCN will be the fiscal agent for this. Sherry will be working with Sarah and Daryl on the meeting. Finally, he mentioned that there are a lot of groups that want to now work with tribes on marijuana. There has been some inquiry on this issue.

To follow up on the question of whether the NIC could recoup the cost of the extensive amount of copies that had to be made to fulfill the parameters of a subpoena, Sherry reported that the Attorney General's Office stated that the party is judgment proof and we could not collect the fees if we made the request.

Sherry invited everyone to attend the American Indian Achievement Award Banquet and Silent Auction on Saturday, November 14, 2015. Commissioner Quasula inquired if the Governor could make an appearance at this year's Achievement Award Banquet. It would be great to have him, the First Lady or a representative attend. Sherry responded that she would be happy to make the request.

**XVII. Adjournment**

**Commissioner Hansen motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Quasula. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent). Meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am.**

**CERTIFICATION**

It is hereby certified that these Meeting Minutes were approved at a meeting of the Nevada Indian Commission with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions, 1 absent, at a meeting duly held on December 3, 2015.

Certified by:

  
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Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director  
Nevada Indian Commission