

Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs
October 23, 2020
Quarterly Board Meeting

Larry Wright, Jr., Acting *Chairman*

Judi M. gaiashkibos, *Executive Director*

Commissioners Present

George Ausan, *Member At Large*
Gabriel Bruguier, *City of Lincoln Rep*
Dr. Rudi Mitchell, *City of Omaha Rep*
Stuart Redwing, *Santee Sioux Tribe*
Kirby Williams, *City of Omaha Rep*
Darren Wolfe, *Omaha Tribe*
Larry Wright Jr., *Ponca Tribe*

Commissioners Absent

Arthur Harvey, *Northern Panhandle*
Derek LaPointe, *Santee Sioux Tribe*
Steve Laravie, *Ponca Tribe*
Thelma Whitewater, *Winnebago Tribe*
Jason Sheridan, *Omaha Tribe*

Ex-Officio Present

Commission Staff Present

Judi M. gaiashkibos, *Executive Director*
Scott Shafer, *Administrative Assistant II*
Alicia Gray, *Administrative Secretary*

Commission Staff Absent

Call to Order

The October 23, 2020 quarterly meeting of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs hosted as a Zoom meeting at Nebraska State Capitol, 6th floor, East, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509 was called to order by Acting Chairman Larry Wright, Jr. at 10:15 a.m. CST.

The invocation was given by Dr. Rudi Mitchell.

Roll call indicated seven of 13 current commissioners in attendance and constituting a quorum.

Motion #1 Commissioner Red Wing motioned to approve the agenda with movement of item f. to after Old Business b. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams.

For:	Ausan Wolfe	Bruguier	Mitchell	Red Wing	Williams
Opposed:	None				
Abstain:	None				

Motion carried. Chair did not vote.

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Old Business

Motion #2 Commissioner Wolfe motioned to approve the May 29, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruguier.

For: Ausan Bruguier Mitchell Red Wing Williams
Wolfe

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried. Chair did not vote.

Motion #3 Commissioner Bruguier motioned to approve the General Ledger Detail Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ausan.

For: Ausan Bruguier Mitchell Red Wing Williams
Wolfe

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried. Chair did not vote.

New Business

(f.) Updated Policies -

Motion #4 Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the State Computer Use Policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams.

For: Ausan Bruguier Mitchell Red Wing Williams
Wolfe

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried. Chair did not vote.

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Motion #5 Commissioner Red Wing motioned to approve the Sick Leave Policy with updated verbiage from “will be required” to “may be required”. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams.

For:	Ausan Wolfe	Bruguier	Mitchell	Red Wing	Williams
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Opposed:	None
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Abstain:	None
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Motion carried. Chair did not vote.

- a. **Director’s Report** - Executive Director, Judi gaiashkibos, introduced NCIA’s new administrative secretary Alicia Gray, and informed the board of new intern Grace Voss. She indicated an agency tribal license fund balance of \$55,000 and recommended awarding four \$5,000 scholarships from this fund. She noted a balance of \$90,000 in the Lincoln Community Foundation account and suggested one scholarship be awarded out of this. gaiashkibos then reported that Indigenous Peoples day will be official in Nebraska next year. She extended the offer for any board members to sit on a planning committee. Commissioner Wolfe mentioned NIEA (National Indian Educators Association) conference in Omaha might overlap, and Commissioner Wright suggested NCIA contact them regarding their event for logistics and/or possibility of a partnership. gaiashkibos also relayed info of Leah Belgrade leaving her position at DHHS Minority Health for another state and that the position will be vacant. Board members are invited to promote this opening. Director gaiashkibos informed the board that tribal checks for COVID 19 relief from Dr. Anne Hubbard are being processed through Lincoln Community Foundation and will be disbursed to the tribes. NCIA still needs a contact for the Omaha Tribe. gaiashkibos went on to tell of continuing work on COVID comic book project. Commissioner Williams wondered if those might be able to be distributed to OPS’s NICE program.
- b. **Biennium Budget Submission** - Scott Shafer, NCIA Administrative Assistant, reviewed agency goals and budget numbers in NCIA’s Biennium Budget Submission.
- c. **Legislative Review** - Executive Director gaiashkibos notified the board that in December, the US Civil Rights Commission Nebraska State Advisory Committee, NSAC, will hold three panel hearing sessions to discuss the issue of Native mascots in Nebraska schools and possible next steps to remove them.
- d. **Future Legislation** - Executive Director gaiashkibos spoke to the board of the need for legislation to mandate collecting Nebraskan voter demographics. She noted that this would likely require a change in state statute. She noted that this would likely require a change in state statute. Commissioner Red Wing voiced support for such legislation to gather tribal voter data. He and Commissioner Wright voiced concerns about inaccurate census counts in 2010 as well as 2020 that could negatively impact tribes’ ability to receive funds.
- e. **Standing Bear Documentary Release** - Executive Director gaiashkibos invited all members to the premiere of NCIA’s documentary project November 17th at 7pm inside Lincoln’s Lied Center or by streaming online with more specific details to come later.
- f. **Election of Officers** - Acting Chairman Wright informed the board that executive officer elections are overdue, but, due to election turnover and its effect on tribal board representation, NCIA will wait until the next board meeting to hold elections of Executive Board.

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- g. **Miscellaneous Business** - Commissioner Wolfe voiced concern that COVID19 might create the potential for the rate of suicides to increase due to closures of communities and schools in winter months. Acting Chairman Wright briefly reviewed challenges of tribes using COVID relief funds; especially with the balance between Federal and State. Judi suggested a letter submission from tribes to DHHS board on which she sits. Acting Chairman Wright asked if NCIA could obtain COVIC CARES funds. Executive Director gaiashkibos said that she would research and report back to the board. Acting Chairman Wright also informed the board that the Ponca tribe had completed the purchase of a building in Lincoln and were beginning to renovate it to open a clinic.

Motion #6 Commissioner Wolfe motioned for the next meeting to be held on January 29th, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at a location to be determined. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Red Wing.

For: Ausan Bruguier Mitchell Red Wing Williams
Wolfe

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried. Chair did not vote.

Motion #7 Commissioner Bruguier motioned to adjourn meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Red Wing.

For: Ausan Bruguier Mitchell Red Wing Williams
Wolfe

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried. Chair did not vote.

Quarterly Meeting of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs adjourned Friday, October 23, 2020 at 11:14 a.m. CST.