

Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs
January 29, 2021
Quarterly Board Meeting

Larry Wright, Jr., *Acting Chairman*

Judi M. gaiashkibos, *Executive Director*

Commissioners Present

Georgianna Ausan, *Member At Large*
Gabriel Bruguier, *City of Lincoln Rep*
Stuart Redwing, *Santee Sioux Tribe*
Thelma Whitewater, *Winnebago Tribe*
Kirby Williams, *City of Omaha Rep*
Larry Wright Jr., *Ponca Tribe*
Arthur Harvey, *Northern Panhandle*

Commissioners Absent

Derek LaPointe, *Santee Sioux Tribe*
Steve Laravie, *Ponca Tribe*
Dr. Rudi Mitchell, *City of Omaha Rep*
Jason Sheridan, *Omaha Tribe*
Darren Wolfe, *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 January 29th, 2021 quarterly meeting of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs (hosted as a Zoom meeting at the Nebraska State Capitol, 6th floor, East, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509) was called to order by Acting Chairman Larry Wright, Jr. at 1:02 p.m. CST.

The invocation was given by Larry Wright, Jr.

Roll call indicated seven of nine current commissioners in attendance constituting a quorum. (Stuart Redwing joined at 1:08 p.m. resulting in final attendance of eight out of nine commissioners.)

Introduction: Acting Chairman Wright thanked the outgoing commissioners and mentioned to the group that two new members would be joining at the next quarterly meeting after appointment by the governor (Kyle Taylor of Ponca Tribe & Sidney Tuttle of Santee Sioux Nation). Acting Chairman Wright also asked members to reach out to any Winnebago Tribe and/or Omaha Tribe for their nominations. The election of officers will take place at the next meeting, hopefully in-person.

Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs
January 29, 2021
Quarterly Board Meeting

Motion #1 Commissioner Bruguier motioned to approve the January 29, 2021 agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harvey.

For: Ausan Bruguier Harvey Redwing Whitewater Williams Wolfe Wright Jr.

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried by voice vote. Chair did not vote.

Old Business

Motion #2 Commissioner Williams motioned to approve the October 23, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Redwing.

For: Ausan Bruguier Harvey Redwing Whitewater Williams Wolfe Wright Jr.

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried by voice vote. Chair did not vote.

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

For: Ausan Bruguier Harvey Redwing Whitewater Williams Wolfe Wright Jr.

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried by voice vote. Chair did not vote.

Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs
January 29, 2021
Quarterly Board Meeting

New Business

1. Director's Report

- 1.1. *Mascot Hearings Update* - There were three total hearings (two in December & one in January). The US Civil Rights Commission staff will compile and condense that information in order to provide a report. Then, the state advisory will decide where to go in terms of legislation. Speakers included Suzanne Harjo, Charlene Teters, & Dr. Fryberg along with tribal leadership such as Ponca Tribe's Larry Wright, Jr., Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska's Tori Kitcheyan, & Omaha Tribe's Everett Baxter, Jr.
 - 1.1.1. Acting Chairman Wright reported that shortly after his testimony, Battle Creek's superintendent called him to discuss hurdles.
- 1.2. *C'rona Comix Update* - This was a project funded by a NSF Grant to Judy Diamond at the University of Nebraska. This particular comic is about Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte and is illustrated by Winnebago artist Henry Payer. It will be published in April but is currently available online. Once they are available, books will be provided to Commissioners, LPS, OPS, & Tribal Colleges. A poster series will also be available.
- 1.3. *COVID-19 Update* - The Omaha and Ponca Tribes are going through the state process to receive vaccines. Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and Santee Sioux Nation are using Indian Health Service.
- 1.4. *Standing Bear Prize for Courage* - Dr. Gregg Wright started an effort to raise money (\$5000) to award as a prize to one person (along with an Oscar-size Standing Bear sculpture) on Sunday October 10, 2021. A nomination process will be established and sent to Commissioners and others so that anyone in the United States can be nominated. Monetary functions will most likely be managed through the Standing Bear Prize for Courage group.
- 1.5. *Indigenous Peoples Day Plans* - This multi-day event needs a member from each tribe to serve on the planning committee. Those committee meetings will begin in February. Commitments have already been made by University of Nebraska (Chancellor Ronnie Green), Center for Great Plains Studies, History NE, Humanities NE, & Morrill Hall. Tribal Flags will be taken to the Capitol building in the morning. In the later morning and afternoon, speakers will present. At 1pm on the 11th of October, Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte's sculpture will be unveiled on Centennial Mall.
 - 1.5.1. Executive Director gaiashkibos reported that she & NCIA staffer Scott Shafer attended the Capitol Environs Commission meeting to discuss 1.) the addition of a tribute tile including descriptive text on Centennial Mall for Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte. Lincoln Parks will pay roughly \$5,000 to install that. Also discussed in the meeting was 2.) \$125,000 that will be donated to create a 7-foot bronze sculpture of Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte to be placed on the plaza with the Nebraska State Building by the Scottish Rite building. NOTE: As the Capitol Environs Commission did not have a quorum, they were unable to officially vote on either item.

Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs
January 29, 2021
Quarterly Board Meeting

- 1.6. *Side Note* - Executive Director gaiashkibos was contacted earlier in the week by Connie Duncan (President of the Lincoln School Board) who asked for names of Native Women to honor in naming of a new school located in North Lincoln. Executive Director gaiashkibos suggested “Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte” in place of “Standing Bear” as more new stories should be told.
- 1.7. *Scholarship Update* - Tribal License Plates have generated \$60,000. NCIA would like to award four additional \$5,000 scholarships with possible names such as Charles Eastman for Santee Sioux, Angela DeCora for Winnebago, Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte for Omaha, Standing Bear for Ponca, & Red Cloud or Crazy Horse for Western Nebraska. Those scholarships could even be part of a four year commitment. Name suggestions from Commissioners are needed. The Lincoln Community Foundation will also award a \$5,000 Chief Standing Bear Scholarship. Applications for that have officially opened and can be found at <https://lcf.academicworks.com/opportunities/1019>. Please help in spreading awareness.
- 1.8. *New Boards* - Most notably, Executive Director gaiashkibos joined Joslyn Art Museum’s Native American Art Advisory Committee. She also noted that she left Doane University’s Board of Trustees.
- 1.9. *Side Note* - Acting Chairman Wright shared with the group and invited Executive Director gaiashkibos to (virtually) attend the next Nebraska Inter Tribal Coalition meeting (with Indigenous Peoples Day Activiteis added to the agenda) on February 18th.
- 1.10. *Side Note* - Executive Director gaiashkibos also expressed interest in inviting Secretary to the Interior Deb Haaland to Nebraska’s first Indigenous Peoples Day celebration.

2. **Dr. Susan Sculpture Project** -

- 2.1. \$125,000 was donated for the creation of this sculpture.
- 2.2. A wall behind the sculpture will be paid for by City of Lincoln.
- 2.3. Lincoln Parks will pay to bring the artist’s clay model to Lincoln for the public to witness work.
- 2.4. Another documentary will be filmed and funded for \$35,000.
 - 2.4.1. \$5,000 may be raised privately. Another \$5,000 may come from a Humanities NE Grant.
Commission Director gaishkibos asked for approval to use \$20,000 from “contractual services” line item which is required to be used in Biennium.

Motion #4 Commissioner Williams motioned to approve the Dr. Susan Film Contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruguier.

For: Ausan Bruguier Harvey Redwing Whitewater Williams Wolfe Wright Jr.

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried by voice vote. Chair did not vote.

Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs
January 29, 2021
Quarterly Board Meeting

3. **107th Legislature Review & Updates -**

- 3.1. Senator Brewer introduced LB185 for purpose of funding monies from the general fund for Fred Leroy Health Center as FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center). NCIA will most likely make this a priority bill.
- 3.2. LB528 is a carry-over bill from last year to allow GAP funding to include Tribal Colleges. There is a new Chair of Education (Lynne Walz). New Chair of State Tribal Advisory is Joni Albrecht.
- 3.3. Public Hearing Rules have been updated due to COVID. If you plan to testify, please reference these.

4. **NCIA Budget Status Report -**

- 4.1. Highlights [in meeting packet] include “Educational Services” as it accounts for scholarship money, “Other Contractual Service” with 23,000 and 20,000 to go towards Dr. Susan La Fleshe Picotte documentary. “Revenues” from License Plates that was beyond Mr. Shafer’s projections with 18,000. NCIA also maintains cash fund authority which is necessary to award scholarships.

5. **Fiscal Year ’21-’23 Appropriations -**

- 5.1. The Governor made his recommendations of \$246,801 for fiscal year 2022. The discrepancy between requested and recommended amounts for the next two years comes from the proposed Commission Director pay increase.
- 5.2. Legislative numbers should come out in a week or two and should closely mirror the Governor’s numbers. The Chair of the NCIA Board typically attends a hearing to defend the agency’s budget, but if not possible, Commission Director will do so accompanied by commission staff.

6. **Miscellaneous Business -**

- 6.1. Executive Director gaiashkibos reported that she reached out to see if the next board meeting would be hosted by UNL Chancellor Ronnie Green in a skybox at Memorial Stadium on April 23rd or 30th. No vote was taken.
- 6.2. Commissioner Redwing asked if a submission letter was needed for incoming commissioner Sidney Tuttle to replace Derek LaPointe. Executive Director gaiashkibos informed him that a letter and application need to be sent to the Governor’s office by Executive Director gaiashkibos. The two will meet and the Governor must then send the NCIA office an official appointment. After receiving that document, NCIA staff will work with Mr. Tuttle to file commissioner paperwork.

**Quarterly Meeting of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs adjourned Friday, January 29, 2021 at
1:40 p.m. CST.**