

Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs  
December 3, 2021  
Quarterly Board Meeting

**Attendance:**

Commissioners Present

**Georgianna Ausan**, (*Member At Large*)  
**Dr. Rudi Mitchell**, *City of Omaha Rep*  
**Gwendolyn Porter**, *Omaha Tribe*  
**Stuart Redwing**, *Santee Sioux Nation (Vice Chairman, Tribal Rep.)*  
**Kyle Taylor**, *Ponca Tribe*  
**Kirby Williams**, *City of Omaha Rep (Urban Rep.)*  
**Darren Wolfe**, *Omaha Tribe (Tribal Rep.)*  
**Larry Wright, Jr.**, *Ponca Tribe (Chairman)*

Commissioners Absent

**Gabriel Bruguier**, *City of Lincoln*  
**Arthur Harvey**, *Northern Panhandle Rep*  
**Sidney Tuttle**, *Santee Sioux Nation*

Ex-Officio Present

Commission Staff Present

**Judi M. gaiashkibos**, *Executive Director*  
**Scott Shafer**, *Administrative Programs Officer*  
**Alicia Rodrigues**, *Administrative Secretary*

Commission Staff Absent

**A. Call to Order:**

1. The December 3rd, 2021 quarterly meeting of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, Nebraska was called to order by Chairman Larry Wright, Jr. at 10:12a.m. CST.

1a. The invocation was given by Commissioner Mitchell.

2. Roll call indicated eight of eleven current commissioners in attendance constituting a quorum.

3. **Commissioner Statuses** [*Larry Wright Jr.*]

a. Chairman Wright referenced the contact sheet included in the meeting packet. He tasked each commissioner with requesting reappointment from their tribe/the governor and/or reapplying to the Board.

b. Chairman Wright then resigned from his position as Chair of NCIA's Board & gave a brief update on his new position. He reported that will be staying in Lincoln so he will be available to help if ever necessary.

b1. Executive Director gaiashkibos presented Mr. Wright with a Pendleton blanket and an admiralship.

b2. Commissioner Mitchell presented Mr. Wright with a blanket as well.

4. **Motion #1** Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the December 3, 2021 agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ausan.

**For:** Ausan Mitchell Porter Redwing Taylor Williams Wolfe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

*Motion carried by roll-call vote. Chair did not vote.*

## **B. Old Business:**

**1. Motion #2** Commissioner Redwing motioned to approve the August 9, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wolfe.

**For:** Ausan Mitchell Porter Redwing Taylor Williams Wolfe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:**

*Motion carried by roll-call vote. Chair did not vote.*

**2. Motion #3** Commissioner Wolfe motioned to approve the General Ledger Detail Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell.

**For:** Ausan Mitchell Porter Redwing Taylor Williams Wolfe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:**

*Motion carried by roll-call vote. Chair did not vote.*

### **3. Budget Status Report -**

a. Scott Shafer reported that NCIA is roughly 41.64% through the current Fiscal Year and 37.47% through budgeted expenditures.

### **4. Presentation by Rob Bozell (Nebraska State Archeologist) -**

a. Mr. Bozell handed out a map to commissioners and reported on the current status of searching at Genoa; cemetery is noted on map but nothing has been found yet as the symbol points to a large/general area and there are no markers still standing; radar has been used at two or three locations to scan surrounding land; work is underway to have a team of canines search further as well

a1. Mr Bozell also announced that he plans to retire at the end of the year and his successor is going to be Dave Williams.

Executive Director gaiashkibos

b. Commissioner Wolfe inquired why it has taken so long to find anything and expressed desire for the State take more urgency.

b1. Executive Director gaiashkibos reported that there is little direction from the Department of the Interior who is to create a report on all U.S. boarding schools by April 1<sup>st</sup>. She assured the Board that conversations have continued between NCIA, DOI, and NABS (National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition). In fact, an MOU was officially issued between DOI & NABS.

b2. Mr. Wright assured the Board that effort is there and that more pushing will happen so that this issue will not go away.

c. Executive Director gaiashkibos reported that NCIA will be working to send out a letter to the tribes that have been found to have students that perished at Genoa. Two separate research groups, one from UNL and the other from the Genoa foundation, have been working to find data and create a list of students.

c1. Mr. Bozell suggested that such a letter include an ask to anyone who might know where the cemetery is located.

### **11:05am ~ Tour of Joslyn's current exhibit titled *Faces from the Interior: The North American Portraits of Karl Bodmer* [Annika Johnson]**

a. Before embarking on the tour, Mr. Wright excused himself to attend a separate meeting.

b. Upon returning from the tour, Vice-Chair Redwing assumed position as Chair to close the meeting.

### **11:35am ~ Meals served for a working lunch [Abraham Catering]**

## **C. New Business:**

### **1. Director's Report -**

- a. Executive Director gaiashkibos reported events of past three and a half months as well as upcoming events; Highlights included:
  - a1. December 7<sup>th</sup> Visioning Session
    - a1.1. Commissioner Porter inquired about tribal school representation and Executive Director gaiashkibos replied unsure but hopeful
    - a2. Black Elk Speaks graphic novel; funding donated by woman from New York whose late brother was passionate about Native American history
    - a3. Fund raising report; relayed that a few recent donations have fallen from the sky such as for graphic novel and MMIW
    - a4. Indigenous Peoples' Day; each commissioner was given a bag of t-shirts and programs
    - a5. Red Dress Exhibit; funding donated by woman from
      - a5.1. Commissioner Ausan relayed that Vision Maker Media plans to present MMIP films in March and that might be a great time for such an exhibit
  - b. Commissioner Ausan reported that Vision Maker Media will also be making funds available to producers and that some media requests can be directed there
  - c. Commissioner Mitchell noted Chancellor Green's initiative and recent headlines opening discussion of the group
  - d. Commissioner Williams shared that Omaha Women's Fund is working to draft state legislation for MMIP and agreed to share the draft bill for review contingent that no one share further.

### **2. Discussion of Contract with Dr. Anitra Warrior (President of Morningstar Counseling & Consultation) -**

- a. Executive Director gaiashkibos introduced contract between NCIA and Morningstar Counseling & Consultation in order to identify priorities for student success in tribal communities. Focus group/listening session will be held at all reservations in NE at some point in the next 6 months to gather information. From that, recommendations will be presented to NCIA as a two-year plan to support and increase student success.
- b. Vice-Chair Redwing asked if NCIA had had anyone look over the contract; Mr. Shafer reassured that NCIA's appointed legal council had already approved.

**Motion #4** Commissioner Williams motioned to approve NCIA's contract with Morningstar Counseling. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wolfe.

**For:** Ausan Mitchell Porter Taylor Williams Wolfe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

*Motion carried by roll-call vote. Vice-Chair did not vote.*

### **3. 107<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session Update -**

- a. Executive Director gaiashkibos reported that the session begins on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and NCIA is working on a few bills including:
  - a1. Executive Director gaiashkibos reported that draft of bill to ban mascots from Senator Megan Hunt who presented at the last Board Meeting would need be have a few edits made such as omitting the language tasking NCIA with fund management for schools to change mascots. NCIA's office will send those edits in the following weeks.
    - a1.1. Commissioner Wolfe suggested that a mascot change mandate come from NDE and individual tribes.

a1.2. Executive Director gaiashkibos requested that everyone who is able to (Commissioners, students, etc.) come to testify during the bill's hearings. Commissioner Wolfe agreed.

a1.3. Vice-Chair Redwing reported that tribal schools are discussing changing mascots as well. Their current standing is about 50/50 for/against doing so.

a2. Executive Director gaiashkibos mentioned that Senator Patty Pansing Brooks could also introduce a bill related to MMIP.

#### **4. MOU with neighboring counties to accept court orders for EPC clients [Gwendolyn Porter]**

a. Commissioner Porter explained some issues that the Omaha Tribe is facing in regards to transporting patients and executing EPC orders. The ideal and proper course of action would be to have the county attorney issue an EPC order and tribal law enforcement would escort the patient to a nearby facility. However, currently, that is not happening. The issue seems to be mainly with the Thurston county attorney.

b. Vice-Chair Redwing stated the Knox County & Santee tribal law enforcement have been cross deputized and that the Omaha Tribe could consider a similar program/action.

c. Executive Director gaiashkibos suggested that a report of the issues be created and she would submit that to Corey Steel and the Consortium of Tribal, State, and Federal Courts that she sits on.

#### **5. Miscellaneous Business -**

a. Commissioner Porter reported that an assault of her children occurred when a few kids traveled to a gym in Pender, NE to play basketball. She stated that a gentleman harassed the kids because they had not contributed to a donation bucket and that they were not paying members allowed to use the facility. Commissioner Porter has taken action privately but wanted everyone to know that this had happened and that some in Thurston County had termed the Reservation "the other side of the county".

a1. Executive Director gaiashkibos offered to pass along the information to the Consortium of Tribal, State, and Federal Courts.

b. Commissioner Porter acknowledged and thanked the Omaha Tribal Council members in attendance (Cheyenne Robinson, Jazelle, Miller, and Primo Halloway)

c. Commissioner Mitchell reported that a Native woman in Omaha had recently passed away & her body was still in the funeral home as they refused to bury her.

c1. Executive Director requested a brief summary be emailed to her and she would pass along the information.

#### **D. Adjourn:**

1. Vice-Chair Redwing and Executive Director gaiashkibos proposed March 18th to be the date of the next Board Meeting. Various locations were proposed such as the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, Morrill Hall, and The Great Plains Museum.

2. **Motion #5** Commissioner Porter motioned to adjourn meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell.

**For:** Ausan Mitchell Porter Taylor Williams Wolfe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

*Motion carried by roll-call vote. Vice-Chair did not vote.*

**The Quarterly Meeting of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs adjourned  
Friday, December 3, 2021 at 1:28p.m. CST.**