

Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs  
Friday, March 18, 2022  
Quarterly Board Meeting

**Attendance:**

Commissioners Present

**Gabriel Bruguier**, *City of Lincoln Rep.*  
**Dr. Rudi Mitchell**, *City of Omaha Rep.*  
**Gwendolyn Porter**, *Omaha Tribe (arrived at 10:53am)*  
**Stuart Redwing**, *Santee Sioux Nation (Vice Chairman, Tribal Rep.)*  
**Kyle Taylor**, *Ponca Tribe (arrived at 10:18am)*  
**Sidney Tuttle**, *Santee Sioux Nation*  
**Kirby Williams**, *City of Omaha Rep (Urban Rep.)*  
**Darren Wolfe**, *Omaha Tribe (Tribal Rep.) (arrived at 10:38am)*

Commissioners Absent

Ex-Officio Present

Commission Staff Present

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

Commission Staff Absent

**A. Call to Order:**

1. The March 18th, 2022 quarterly meeting of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs at “Chuck’s Place” inside the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Lincoln, Nebraska was called to order by Vice-Chair Redwing at 10:15a.m. CST. Notice of this meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on Friday, March 11, 2022.

**1a. Introduction of New Commissioners Statuses**

- a. Vice-Chair Redwing introduced Kenny Mallory who will represent the Winnebago Tribe.
- b. Vice-Chair Redwing shared that Susan Baker will represent the Ponca Tribe.

2. The invocation was given by Commissioner Tuttle.

3. Roll call indicated five of eight current commissioners in attendance constituting a quorum.

**4. Motion #1** Commissioner Bruguier motioned to amend the March 18, 2022 agenda to discuss item **4. Director’s Report** and item **1. 107<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session Update** before **B. Old Business**. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams.

**For:** Bruguier Mitchell Porter Redwing Taylor Tuttle Williams Wolfe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

*Motion carried by roll-call vote. Acting chair did not vote.*

#### **“4. Director’s Report”**

a. Director gaiashkibos drew attention to the printed handouts in each packet detailing all of her meetings in the past four months as well as the project status update.

**Motion #2** Commissioner Bruguier motioned to approve Director gaiashkibos’ Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams.

**For:** Bruguier Mitchell Porter Redwing Taylor Tuttle Williams Wolfe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

*Motion carried by roll-call vote. Acting chair did not vote.*

#### **“1. 107<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session Update”**

a. [*Senator Patty Pansing Brooks from 10:30am - 11:00am*]

a1. Brooks expressed her gratitude and appreciation for being able to work with each tribe

a2. Brooks shared history of legislation that she has been able to work on, including:

2008 Centennial Mall Fundraising Committee

White Clay

Indigenous Peoples’ Day

Bridge to Independence for children who age-out of foster care system

Human Trafficking

MMIW

Legislation for tribal flags in Warner Chamber as well as on 14<sup>th</sup> floor

[LR280](#) (Genoa Industrial School) establishing remembrance day of February 20<sup>th</sup>

[LB1247](#) (Tribal EPC Orders)

a3. Director gaiashkibos asked Brooks to speak about the following:

[LB872](#) (Tribal Regalia) discussion in the works to add fiscal note

[LB1027](#) (Tribal Mascots)

a4. Mr. Mallory asked about future in politics

Brooks is running for and working towards a position in Congress

a5. Rudi expressed appreciation for Brooks’ work and shared that during his time working with the Omaha Tribe in the 90s, EPC Orders and transportation were not an issue

a6. Commissioner Porter presented Brooks with ribbon skirt made by Marisa Cummings

**\* Short break at 11:00am for picture outside in front of Dr. Susan sculpture and food\***

b. [*Don Wesely from 11:24am - 11:36am*]

b1. shared that he received an email from bill drafters office re: amendment acceptance for

b2. thanked all the tribes who came to testify at the LB1191 (Tribal Water) hearing

now, Senator Brewer is looking to add LB1191 (Tribal Water) onto LB872 (Tribal Regalia)

b3. Director gaiashkibos drew attention to the printed handout in each packet detailing all of the ARPA funding asks and approvals

b4. Vice-Chair Redwing emphasized the importance for commissioners to take back information to tribal leaders.

## **B. Old Business:**

**1. Motion #3** Commissioner Porter motioned to approve the December 3, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams.

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

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** Tuttle

*Motion carried by roll-call vote. Acting chair did not vote.*

Vice-Chair Redwing inquired about meaning of “DK” on the physical plates.

Director gaiashkibos relayed that that would be the artist’s initials (Donel Keeler)

**2. Motion #4** Commissioner Taylor motioned to approve the General Ledger Detail Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruguier.

**For:** Bruguier Mitchell Porter Redwing Taylor Tuttle Williams Wolfe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

*Motion carried by roll-call vote. Acting chair did not vote.*

## **3. Budget Status Report**

a. Scott Shafer reported that NCIA is roughly 66.58% through the current fiscal year and 62.8% through budgeted expenditures. Vast majority of these payments are payroll and insurance benefits.

b. Judi shared that water bill could still pass and NCIA has a very small staff. In preparation, she reached out to Jason Jackson at DAS who confirmed that 10% could be used for administration costs.

c. Commissioner Porter relayed that tribes have not received any ARPA funds from the State. Vice-Chair Redwing explained that Tribes received ARPA funds directly that were already spent/designated for costs. Commissioner Wolfe emphasized similarities

## **C. New Business:**

### **1. 107<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session Update**

a. [Patty Pansing Brooks from 10:30am - 11:00am]

a1. See notes above.

b. [Don Wesely from 11:24am - am]

b1. See notes above.

c. [Kirby Williams]

c1. LB1009 (Domestic Abuse Death Review Act)

this bill would create a review committee to investigate any and all deaths related to intimate partner violence; specifically, why, how, and what factors could be changed

Commissioner Williams testified back in January to ensure that a Native member be a part of the proposed committee as well as Federal agents being required for any deaths on tribal reservations the bill is out of committee; currently in flux with attaching to other death review funding options

d. [*Judi gaiashkibos*]

d1. Director gaiashkibos briefly explained the following bills:

[LR271](#) (Standing Bear Center for Justice)

[LB813](#) (Rail-Trail Route)

[LB842](#) (Civic & Community Center Financing Act)

[LB1228](#) (Standing Bear Museum)

[LB1267](#) (NCIA Health Liaisons)

## **2. Introduction of 988 to replace DHHS Suicide Prevention Lifeline [*Michelle Nunemaker*]**

a. Nunemaker is a system of care administrator in the Division of Behavioral Health at DHHS and designated lead of 988

b. historical timeline is as follows:

b1. 2018 National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act came out

b2. 2019 FCC's report to Congress recommended making suicide hotline a three digit number like 911 for medical emergencies

b3. July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 is go-live date

c. when you call 988, your call is sent to Boys Town that is staffed by crisis counselors to triage as minimally invasively as possible

c1. if crisis can't be deescalated over the phone, mobile units will be dispatched to assist

Note: in 2021, this was around 2.9%

d. Commissioner Williams asked about how State would handle calls from the reservation

d1. Nunemaker responded that she hopes her presentation

e. Commissioner Wolfe asked about process and tribal sovereignty; also emphasized the importance for tribal communities be able to participate

f. Commissioner Porter expressed concerns about contacting DHHS Director Dawson; also shared that current contracts between tribes and State could be re-evaluated to eliminate issues

## **3. Discussion of NAGPRA [*Susan Weller*]**

a. expressed gratitude for partnerships thus far and expressed hopes for further work together

b. The State Museum recently took legal control of loan from Joslyn Museum that had been on loan from the Omaha Public Library

b1. in the process of reviewing this loan, Katelyn Trammell (Museum staff) discovered four ancestors improperly described and maintained by previous museum staff

c. Commissioner Mitchell asked about auctions of Omaha remains

d. Weller requested that the Tribes send a letter to the Museum stating the representatives approved by the Tribe as there has been a gentleman by the name of Lawrence Bradley who is posing as an advocate and hindering progress

d1. Vice-Chair Redwing assured that Santee can send letter to Mr. Bradley to make sure him to stop

Note: NCIA will follow up with an example email/letter from Mr. Bradley.

#### **4. Director's Report**

- a. See notes above.

#### **5. NDE + Morningstar Contract Updates**

- a. Introduction of Native American Liaison at NDE [*Dr. Barbara Buttes*]
  - a1. previously worked at LPS, now works at NDE as liaison
- b. Commissioner Tuttle asked if NDE would consider putting together a work group for tribal leaders and department of Education leaders; also shared that tribal schools would like to focus on indigenous languages
  - b1. Buttes expressed need for NCIA and tribes to be her guiding light

#### **6. Introduction Native American Health Liaison at DHHS [*Anita Wisecup*]**

- a. Wisecup works with the office of Health Disparities and Equity under the Division of Public Health at DHHS; they are in the process of renewing DHHS's Tribal Workgroup to better communicate and learn what tribal communities need/want

#### **7. Sovereign Native Youth Leadership Academy Update [*Dr. Gabriel Bruguier*]**

- a. shared that the Sovereign Native Youth Leadership Summer Academy will be in-person June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup> at UNL Campus for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to apply on MATC's webpage
  - a1. Commissioner Bruguier is also looking to hire college-aged students as mentors

#### **8. LCF Chief Standing Bear Scholarship Update [*Scott Shafer*]**

- a. one \$5,000 from NCIA Chief Standing Bear Endowment at LCF
  - a1. additionally, four \$5,000 out of license plate monies
- b. currently in the review process for 10 eligible applicants
- c. notification of awards will go out beginning of May

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

**1.** Vice-Chair Redwing and Executive Director gaiashkibos proposed June 10<sup>th</sup> to be the tentative date of the next Board Meeting. Susan Weller offered Morrill Hall as a meeting location or potential stop on the 10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> as an exhibit titled Dignity Tribes & Transition will open on the 10<sup>th</sup> with a presentation by the exhibit's photographer.

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

**For:** Bruguier Mitchell Porter Redwing Taylor Tuttle Williams Wolfe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

*Motion carried by roll-call vote. Acting chair did not vote.*

**The Quarterly Meeting of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs adjourned  
Friday, March 18, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. CST.**