

Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs
Friday, October 21, 2022
Quarterly Board Meeting
2nd Floor Nebraska Innovation Campus Boardroom in the Innovation Commons

Attendance:

Commissioners Present

Susan Baker, *Ponca Tribe*
Gabriel Bruguier, *City of Lincoln Rep.*
Nancy M. Kile, *Northern Panhandle*
Kenny Mallory, *Winnebago Tribe* (joined at 10:40am)
Rudi Mitchell, *City of Omaha Rep.*
Kameron Runnels, *Santee Sioux Nation*
Kirby Williams, *City of Omaha Rep.*

Commissioners Absent

Darren Wolfe, *Omaha Tribe*
Sidney Tuttle, *Santee Sioux Nation*
Gwendolyn Porter, *Omaha Tribe*
Kyle Taylor, *Ponca Tribe*

Ex-Officio Present

Commission Staff Present

Judi M. gaiashkibos, *Executive Director*
Scott Shafer, *Administrative Programs Officer*
Jessica Stoner, *Office Specialist*

Commission Staff Absent

A. Call to Order:

1. The October 21, 2022 quarterly meeting of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs at the Innovation Commons in Lincoln, Nebraska was called to order by Commissioner Bruguier, acting Chairman, at 10:21 a.m. CST. Notice of this meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on Friday, October 21.

William Stephan, Lied Center for Performing Arts, provided a welcome from the University of Nebraska and showed a brief video previewing the March 9, 2023 performance of “Ajijaak on Turtle Island: Cranes in North America” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcqtB-vo3Bk> which all 5th graders in Lincoln Public Schools will get to see. The story features Native American/Indigenous artists, music, language and culture with puppets.

2. The invocation was given by Commissioner Dr. Rudi Mitchell.

3. Roll call indicated that six of the eleven current commissioners were in attendance. This established a quorum.

4. **Motion #1** Commissioner Williams motioned to approve the October 21, 2022 agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell.

For: Baker, Kile, Mitchell, Runnels, Williams

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

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

B. Old Business:

1. Motion #2 Commissioner Williams motioned to approve the June 10, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell.

For: Baker, Kile, Mitchell, Runnels, Williams

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

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

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

For: Baker, Kile, Mallory, Mitchell, Runnels, Williams

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

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

3. Budget Status Report

a. NCIA Administrative Programs Officer Scott Shafer reviewed the expenditures shared in the General Ledger Detail Report.

C. New Business:

1. Introduction of New NCIA Commissioners

a. Newly appointed NCIA commissioners Susan Baker (Ponca), Nancy Kile (Northern Panhandle) and Kameron Runnels (Santee) were introduced as members of the board. Commissioner Mitchell announced that board member Gwen Porter did not make it to the general election for Omaha Tribal Council.

2. Introduction of New NCIA Staff

a. Jessica Stoner was introduced as the new NCIA Office Specialist.

3. Approval of President of the Pawnee Nation, Walter Echo-Hawk, as Ex-Officio Member

a. NCIA Executive Director gaiashkibos informed the board that Walter Echo-Hawk contacted NCIA with a request to be appointed as an Ex-Officio on the board representing the Pawnee Nation. Executive Director gaiashkibos also announced that former Pawnee Ex-Officio member Roger Welsch passed away in October.

Motion #4 Commissioner Baker motioned to approve President of the Pawnee Nation, Walter Echo-Hawk, as Ex-Officio Member of the NCIA Board of Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kile.

For: Baker, Kile, Mallory, Mitchell, Runnels, Williams

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

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

4. Agency Strategic Plan & Two-Year Budget

a. Executive Director gaiashkibos informed the board that the agency's two year budget and strategic plan has been successfully submitted. There will be a Legislative Appropriations Hearing early next year to review the agency submission

5. Director's Report & Project Status Report [*Judi gaiashkibos*]

- a. A visual overview of agency activities was shown, including the Otoe Missouri return to Lincoln ceremony, visit from the Canadian Consulate, the release of the Dr Susan La Flesche Picotte documentary, Standing Bear Justice Center dedication and the Standing Bear Courage event.
- b. Bills and Legislation
 1. Tribal Water Quality Bill: Executive Director gaiashkibos informed the board that the tribal water bill did not make it out of legislative committee. She is working with Senator Wishart to explore options of reintroducing the bill. Commissioner Runnels stated that the issue of water quality for the Santee Tribe is still critical and an ongoing problem. Commissioner Kile stated that there are water quality issues in Northwest Nebraska area.
 2. MMIW: Executive Director gaiashkibos informed the board that State Senator Hunt has provided the agency with a draft bill addressing MMIW issues. The initial draft which is very basic includes the provision of a staff person for the agency to be tasked with working on this issue.
 3. Tribal Protection Bill: Executive Director gaiashkibos stated that support from DHHS is imperative on this bill, or without their support, the likelihood of passage are greatly reduced.
- c. NCIA donation to Tecumseh State Prison in Support of Native American Religious Activities: NCIA Executive Director gaiashkibos informed the board that the agency had donated \$250 to fund Native American religious activities at Tecumseh. She provided a list of the various Native groups and needs at all Nebraska Department of Corrections facilities.

Motion #5 Commissioner Williams motioned to approve the Director's Report & Project Status Update. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruguier.

For: Baker, Kile, Mallory, Mitchell, Runnels, Williams

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

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

6. Speakers

- a. Mike Walsh, Nebraska Department of Revenue: Mike Walsh disseminated a hand out to the board the included updates and revisions to state tax policy pertaining to purchases by Native residents. He indicated that some policies are determined by the state, but other policies and terminology is dictated by the federal government. Executive Director gaiashkibos suggested to the board that that due to the complex nature of the rules and regulations and time constraints, that further, more in depth discussion of the issue needs to take place.
- b. Stacy Stupka, Nebraska Department of Transportation: Stacy Stupka presented on issues related to tribal consultation with Nebraska tribes. She indicated that there is a new section 106 to the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NESHPO) and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Statewide Programmatic Agreement for the Federal-aid Highway Program pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in Nebraska. Commissioner Mitchell asked about how identified sacred sites would be handled in relation to these regulations. Ms. Stupka indicated that there would be no real database kept by NDOT of these sites, and that the tribes would be the primary keeper of that knowledge and those locations.

- c. Dr. Siobhan Wescott, UNMC Native American Garden Project; Dr. Wescott presented to the board on UNMC efforts to develop a Native American Healing Garden on the UNMC campus. She encouraged the tribes to donate funds or provide input and information for inclusion and support of the project.
- d. Anita Wisecup & Daryl Harrison, DHHS Governors Challenge Group: Wisecup and Harrison shared information about the Governor's Challenge addressing veterans suicide. Harrison indicated that he wanted to make addressing suicide issues with Native veterans a high priority as part of this challenge. He indicated that he is having challenges getting in touch with Santee and Ponca veterans. They are actively inviting Nebraska tribes to reach out to them with any questions or issues that they might have.
- e. Marian Holstein, Nebraska Indian Education Association: She gave visual presentation about the organization of the Indian Education Association and how they interact with other educational stakeholders in the state. She also provided a copy of a resolution issued by the Nebraska Department of Education recognizing Native American Heritage Month in Nebraska.

7. Approval of NCIA Executive Committee Slate of Officers

Motion #6 Commissioner Williams motioned to approve slate of officers for NCIA Executive Committee as follows:

- Darren Wolfe-Chairperson
- Nancy Kile-Western Nebraska/Member at Large Representative
- Kameron Runnels-Reservation Representative (Santee)
- Gwen Porter-Reservation Representative (Omaha)
- Kirby Williams-Urban Area Representative

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Runnels.

For: Baker, Kile, Mallory, Mitchell, Runnels, Williams

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

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

D. Adjourn:

Motion #7 Commissioner Baker motioned to adjourn meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams.

For: Baker, Kile, Mallory, Mitchell, Runnels, Williams

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, October 21, 2022 at 12:25p.m. CST.**