

Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs
Friday, February 24, 2023
Quarterly Board Meeting
Held via Zoom
Physical Site – 1445 K St., Floor 6 (Please call 402-471-3475)

Attendance:

Commissioners Present via Zoom

Susan Baker, *Ponca Tribe*
Nancy M. Kile, *Northern Panhandle*
Rudi Mitchell, *City of Omaha Rep.*
Kameron Runnels, *Santee Sioux Nation* (joined at 1:15pm)
Sidney Tuttle, *Santee Sioux Nation* (joined at 1:10pm)
Kirby Williams, *City of Omaha Rep.*

Commissioners Absent

Kenneth Mallory, *Winnebago Tribe*
Kyle Taylor, *Ponca Tribe*

Commissioners Present at Physical Site

Gabriel Bruguier, *City of Lincoln Rep.*

Ex-Officio Representative Absent

Walter Echo-Hawk, *Pawnee Nation*

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. Welcome:** The February 24, 2023 quarterly meeting of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs was called to order by Commissioner Bruguier, Acting Chairman, at 1:05 p.m. CT. The meeting was held via Zoom and at the physical site of the NCIA office, 1445 K Street, Floor 6. Notice of this meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on Friday, February 17, 2023.
- 2. Invocation:** The invocation was given by Commissioner Nancy M. Kile.
- 3. Roll call:** A visual roll call taken by Commissioner Bruguier indicated that seven of the nine current commissioners were in attendance. This established a quorum.
- 4. Approve Agenda**
The agenda was shared in the video conference via screen share.

Two employees of the Omaha tribe raised a concern related to representation of their tribe on the NCIA board. The two employees of the Omaha tribe stated that the agenda could not be honored because the Omaha tribe is not currently represented on the NCIA board due to the resignation of Commissioner Wolfe and due to Commissioner Porter no longer serving on the Omaha Tribal Council.

Acting Chairman Bruguier caucused with Executive Director gaiashkibos to clarify the Omaha constituents' concern. The Director stated that NCIA is a non-code state agency with a statutory obligation to meet quarterly when a quorum of the board of commissioners is present.

The Acting Chairman Bruguier shared with the video conference attendees that only current members of the NCIA Board of Commissioners can propose changes to the agenda in a public meeting.

Executive Director gaiashkibos stated that the purpose of the board meeting is to discuss the agenda items as determined by current members of the board.

The two employees of the Omaha tribe left the video conference meeting. The meeting continued in order to meet NCIA's statutory obligation.

Motion #1 Acting Chairman Bruguier motioned to approve the February 24, 2023 agenda.

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried by voice vote. Acting Chair did not vote.

B. Old Business:

1. Approve October 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion #2 Commissioner Baker motioned to approve the October 21, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kile.

For: Baker, Kile, Mitchell, Runnels, Williams

Opposed: None

Abstain: Tuttle (Absent from Oct 21, 2022 meeting)

Motion carried by voice vote. Acting Chair did not vote.

2. Approve General Ledger Detail Report

Motion #3 NCIA Administrative Programs Officer Scott Shafer reviewed the General Ledger Detail Report. Commission held a voice vote to approve the General Ledger Detail Report.

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried by voice vote. Acting Chair did not vote.

3. Budget Status Report

a. NCIA Administrative Programs Officer Scott Shafer reviewed the expenditures shared in the Budget Status Report.

C. New Business:

1. Update on NCIA Board openings

a. There are two openings for Omaha representatives on the NCIA board.

i. Board Chair, Darren Wolfe submitted a letter of resignation to NCIA dated January 17, 2023.

ii. In correspondence from Gwen Porter mid-February, she indicated that she could no longer serve as a commissioner due to no longer being a member of the Omaha Tribal Council.

b. There is one opening for Winnebago representative on the NCIA board.

c. There is one opening for Southern Panhandle representative on the NCIA board.

d. There is one opening for Member at Large representative on the NCIA board.

2. Governor's & Appropriations Committee Budget Recommendations

- a. NCIA Administrative Programs Officer Scott Shafer reviewed the NCIA budget request and the Governor's and Appropriations Committee's Recommendations.

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

a. Bills & Legislation

- i. LB328 Create an Office of Liaison for MMIP in the Attorney General's Office
- ii. LB277 First Freedom Act Authorizing the wearing of tribal regalia by students
- iii. LB630 Require School Board to adopt dress code grooming policy

b. Partnerships: A visual overview of agency activities was show as Judi described these and other partnerships which NCIA is currently engaged with.

- i. Chief Big Elk Artist Residency - Omaha Tribe, Benjamin Victor, KANEKO
- ii. Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte Tea at the Joslyn Castle
- iii. Meeting of Tribal Leaders & the U.S. Secretary of Labor
- iv. Genoa Indian School & the National Park Service – Condition Assessment
- v. Ponca Tribe & Cedars Home for Children
- vi. Ho-Chunk Anti-Human Trafficking Capacity Building Roundtable, March 9
- vii. USDA Grants – Lunch & Learn
- viii. Genoa Indian School Commemoration – Lunch & Learn
- ix. Dr. Nathan Huynh and Dr. Jennifer Lather joined the video conference to provide a brief presentation about the National Science Foundation grant application with Santee and to have time for questions and answers.
 - (1) If awarded, this will be a six million dollar grant awarded over four years
 - (2) Workforce development aims within this grant include
 - a. increasing the visibility and equity of Vulnerable Rural Communities in engineering (or was it engaging?) and in disaster education
 - b. creating STEM pathways for students in Vulnerable Rural Communities
 - (3) They will determine what to include in the disaster education through listening sessions with members of vulnerable rural communities. At the listening sessions, they will note members' perceptions and experiences in the 2019 Missouri River floods
 - (4) Part of the grant funding will go towards salary for a part time staffer or student worker at NICC.
 - (5) Dr. Huynh asked the commissioners
 - a. Which three communities they would recommend for listening sessions?
 - b. Which High schools should the grant partner with to provide mentoring and presentations?
 - (6) Commissioner Kile asked about planning in place for downstream communities. Dr. Huynh will reach out to Nancy as he has another project related specifically to her question.

Motion #4 Commissioner Baker motioned to approve the Director's Report & Project Status Update. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kile.

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried by voice vote. Acting Chair did not vote.

4. Approve pay increase for NCIA Executive Director

Motion #5 Commissioner Baker motioned to approve a salary increase for NCIA Executive Director as follows: A seven percent salary increase effective July, 2023 commiserate with the results of NAPE/AFSCME negotiations OR up to 15 percent salary increase if so funded and approved by the legislature.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tuttle.

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

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

5. Commissioner Williams voiced concerns.

- a. What is the status of recognition of tribal id's? Are they recognized at a level equal to a driver's license? If not, she would like to help bring legislation forward to improve that recognition.
- b. Will the proposed water legislation in this session, LB 224, also cover unincorporated towns like Macy?

D. Adjourn:

1. Discuss Date & Time of Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting of the NCIA Board of Commissioners will be on Friday, June 2nd, 2023. The time is yet to be determined.

2. Adjourn Meeting

Motion #6 Commissioner Baker motioned to adjourn meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kile.

For: Baker, Kile, Mitchell, Runnels, Tuttle, 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, February 24, 2023 at 2:20 p.m. CST.**