

MINUTES

IDAHO COUNCIL ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

MARCH 20, 2007

SENATE MAJORITY CAUCUS ROOM
STATEHOUSE
BOISE, IDAHO

(Subject to approval by the Council)

Council members present were Senator Michael Jorgenson, Senator Edgar Malepeai, Representative George Sayler, Robert Wells, representing Governor Otter, Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council Chairman Chief Allan, representing the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Fort Hall Business Council Vice-Chairman Lee Juan Tyler, representing the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council Chairman Kyle Prior, representing the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Kootenai Tribal Council Chairwoman Jennifer Porter, representing the Kootenai Tribe, and Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Joel Moffett, representing the Nez Perce Tribe. Absent was Representative Bob Nonini. Paige Alan Parker of the Legislative Services Office was present as staff.

Also present were David Kerrick and Darren Williams, representing the Nez Perce Tribe, Delbert Farmer and Gary Gould, representing the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Diane Westerberg and Russell Westerberg, representing the Kootenai Tribe, Quanah Spencer, Margaret A. SiJohn and Bill Roden, representing the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Dolly Blossom-Paisa, Lisa G. Jim and Emmett Hall, representing the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Josephine Halfhide, a tribal relations consultant, Jesse Taylor and Debbie Field, representing the Idaho Office of Drug Policy, Dean Ferguson, representing the Lewiston Tribune, and Betsy Russell, representing the Spokesman-Review.

Council Vice-Chair Allan called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. After the invocation by Mr. Tyler, **Representative Sayler moved that the minutes of the Council's January 17, 2007, meeting be approved. Mr. Prior seconded the motion and the minutes were approved without objection.**

Mr. Prior asked that the Council be given an overview of the Tribal Juvenile Justice Program of the Department of Juvenile Justice at a future meeting so that the Council could be aware of what's happening. **Mr. Prior** noted that the tribes are having difficulty accessing the funds that may be available through the Juvenile Justice Program. **Mr. Parker** was asked to contact the Department and make the appropriate arrangements.

House Bill 249, now pending before the Senate, was discussed by the Council. **Mr.**

Wells stated that **Governor Otter** did not propose this legislation and if the legislation is passed by the Legislature, the Governor will have to assess his options. **Mr. Tyler** distributed a letter dated March 19, 2007, from Shoshone-Bannock Tribal General Counsel William F. Bacon to the Governor and the Legislature, stating the tribes' position on HB 249. **Mr. Tyler** noted that the tribes did not receive six million dollars in fuel tax revenues and commented that HB 249 was unfair to the ethnic populations. **Mr. Tyler** expressed his desire that the Governor veto HB 249.

Vice-Chair Allan also expressed his disappointment in HB 249, noting that the three million dollars at issue is just a blimp to the Idaho Transportation Department and that the tribes do not get credit for the transportation-related efforts that they have made, but stated that he did not want the work of the Council's legislative members in opposition to that bill to go unnoticed. **Chairman Jorgenson** stated that the Council has grown in the past two years and that the bump in the road imposed by HB 249 should not stand in the way of things that the Council might be able to do. **Chairman Jorgenson** offered to sit down with each tribal representative after the meeting to discuss what might be done and to assist the tribal representatives in presenting their views to the Governor. **Chairman Jorgenson** promised that the position of the tribes will be made a matter of record in tomorrow's Senate debate.

Chairman Jorgenson introduced **Debbie Field**, the Director of the Idaho Office of Drug Control Policy, to the Council. **Director Field** said that she came to the Council as a partner. She distributed a handout titled, "Idaho Meth Project Overview & Background." **Director Field** informed that methamphetamine has brought everyone to their knees. Idaho is in the top ten states in meth use and trafficking. The more who join around the table to combat meth, the better. With the assistance of **Jessie Taylor**, **Director Field** showed the Council some television ads that had been developed with the assistance of **Tom Seagle** of Montana, an individual who has spent ten million dollars researching and publicizing the meth issue as part of the Montana Meth Project. That project has reduced Montana first-time meth use significantly and has resulted in a seventy percent reduction in meth-related crime.

Idaho billboard companies have agreed to donate two billboards for every one billboard space leased. Idaho broadcasters have made similar promises. **Director Field** estimates that it will take \$2.7 million dollars for Idaho to be as aggressive as Montana has been. One individual has donated \$135,000 and another has pledged \$100,000. Both Qwest and Blue Shield have pledged \$20,000. One child has donated his one dollar allowance. So far, **Director Field's** office has received approximately \$400,000, but needs over \$500,000 to stay on schedule.

Vice-chair Allan inquired as to the status of the Access to Recovery Program. **Mr. Moffett** invited **Director Field** to the Nez Perce reservation and inquired as to whether funding similar to Access to Recovery would pass through the tribes. **Director Field** answered that the program will expire in August of this year, but there will be \$6.8 million for substance abuse without federal strings. She is meeting tomorrow with interested parties to determine which programs are working and how to allocate the effort on a state-wide basis.

With regard to the meth ad campaign, **Director Field** stated that she would research the

best advertisement outlets in April and May and would involve the tribes in that process. **Vice-chair Allan** informed the Council that he would take this information back to the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council. **Mr. Prior** invited **Director Field** to the Duck Valley reservation and observed that Highway 51, which runs through the reservation, does not have many billboards available. **Director Field** responded that a similar situation was present in rural Montana where a painting project was initiated, resulting in some 680 creative messages being painted on barns, silos, abandoned cars, hay bails and even cows. **Mr. Wells** asked for a copy of photographs of the creative Montana ad campaign. Everyone agreed that a sustained, cooperative effort was needed to combat the meth problem.

Chairman Jorgenson noted some of the recent accomplishments of the Council. He announced a recent agreement with the help of the Governor's staff and the POST academy to allow tribal police officers to retain their POST certifications. **Chairman Jorgenson** also reminded the Council that an Indian Education Coordinator position had recently been created in the Department of Education. He expressed appreciation for the time and effort expended by members of the Council. **Chairman Jorgenson** asked the Council what other issues it would like to address in the future.

Mr. Tyler expressed continued interest in rescinding Public Law 280. He also suggested that, in light of the English language bill that was recently passed by the Legislature, geographical names that are derogatory against Indians be addressed. **Mr. Wells** noted that the English language bill is on its way to the Governor and that it represents little change in existing Idaho law which already requires that legal documents be in English or be accompanied by English translations. **Chairman Jorgenson** noted that the present legislation is not an "English only" bill but an "official language" bill. **Mr. Moffett** wondered why the English bill was even needed since, in reality, it divides. **Vice-chair Allan** also opined that the bill was a step backward.

Mr. Tyler stated that the state needs to take derogatory names off of geographical locations. He is particularly offended by the use of "squaw" which is disrespectful of women. **Vice-chair Allan** agreed, noting that in the past this was said to be an economic issue. In response to an inquiry by **Mr. Wells**, **Bill Roden** recalled that a bill addressing the Indian name issue had been addressed by the Legislature several years ago but died in a House committee and believed that there is a process for name changes which is slow and may be expedited by legislative action.

Mr. Wells moved that the Council name a task force to research and create an inventory of federal and state derogatory Indian geographical name lists and work on the process for determining what could be done with recommendations to the Legislature. **Mr. Tyler** seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed without objection. **Representative Sayler** suggested that the Idaho Historical Society could be contacted to address the Council on this issue. **Representative Sayler** and **Mr. Tyler** agreed to co-chair the task force. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe will provide the assistance of **Frank Roberts** who has already begun compiling an inventory of such names.

Chairman Jorgenson moved that the Council appoint a task force to explore organizing a summit meeting between the tribal leaders, the Governor and the leaders of the Legislature on a periodic basis to discuss issues of concern. **Mr. Wells** seconded the motion. **Vice-chair Allan** supported the motion, noting that the state of Washington has such a summit and offered that the Coeur d'Alene Tribe may be willing to provide some financial support to such a summit. The motion passed without objection. **Mr Wells** and **Mr. Prior** agreed to co-chair this task force.

Mr. Wells moved that a task force be created to explore the possibilities of engaging the Idaho Department of Commerce in assisting the Idaho tribes in the development of Idaho commerce. **Mr. Prior** seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed without objection. **Senator Malepeai** and **Vice-chair Allan** agreed to co-chair the task force.

Chairman Jorgenson recommended that the task force co-chairs call meetings as needed but to keep him informed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.