



WASHOE TRIBE OFF-RESERVATION MEETING

Native TANF HQ

Oct 12th, 2019
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Call to order: 10:15am

People present: 8

I. Announcements:

- Jon Flint – Election Board Representative
 - Still accepting letters of interest for the alternate position
- Janessa Patiga – Enrollment Committee Representative
- HAC representative still open (term expires this December)

II. Department Reports/Updates:

- Ais Murray (Grants Manager) – Rural Economic Development Innovation (REDI) Initiative
 - Introduction/Background
 - Rural Economic Development Innovation initiative grant (USDA program)
 - Need: planning documents from the tribe are dated (over a decade old), and
 - Technical assistance grant – pays for a group to work with us: Rural Community Assistance Corporation (money doesn't come to the tribe)
 - Designed the program so that the RCAC facilitates (outside 3rd party), but community informed – requires community participation;
 - FOUR phases:
 - **Session I: Community Members meeting**
 - **Nov 9th 10am to 4pm (Lunch Provided) at the Wa She Shu Casino**
 - This meeting will set the foundation = really important for members to attend!
 - **Session II: Members and Council Members**
 - Dec 7th 10am to 4pm (Lunch Provided) at the Wa She Shu Casino

- Session III: Members, Council, and Employees
 - Dec 19th 1pm to 7pm (Dinner Provided) at the Wa She Shu Casino
 - Session IV: Members, Council, Employees, and Partners
 - Jan 9th 1pm to 7pm (Dinner Provided) at the Wa She Shu Casino
- Have one year to develop the plan, and still have the opportunity to apply for more funding – potentially for implementation of the plan;
- Focused on improving quality of life and is holistic, and focused on being a self-sustaining entity at a Tribe
 - Wealth-works model: looks at our existing strengths, and what we can build upon – and considers strengths/assets that aren't just buildings and lands, but are valuable but intangible like our language and culture;
- Review of historical documents:
 - CEDS – 2011
 - Land-Use Plan 2008
- Existing partners: Northern Nevada Development Authority, and the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development
- Chairman's Report – Serrell Smokey
 - Priorities:
 - Economic development:
 - REDI grant to develop an economic development plan;
 - Developing a new plan for the ranch;
 - Establishing an Economic Development Director position;
 - Note on the cannabis industry: requires a Compact with the State of Nevada, but right now the State hasn't approved any cannabis Compacts with Tribes that have gaming operations. It's still illegal at the Federal level (risky), and it hasn't led to the economic independence/sustainability of nearby tribes. For these reasons, the Chairman isn't entertaining any proposals that involve this industry on our lands;
 - Tribal operations
 - Established an administrative working group to help with the functioning of Tribal administration
 - Most director and administrative positions have been filled (a lot of these positions were vacant when Chairman took office);
 - Still have a difficult time recruiting people to work here – we have a bad reputation, and he's trying to change that; currently working with the Tribal Administrator to make the hiring process better;
 - Many of our policy and procedures were not being followed - they aren't all perfect = some need to be updated, and others

established – but he has been holding people accountable to these to enhance operations;

- Tribal assets:
 - TANF program – only tribe in Nevada that runs our own program, and this has been a really huge asset for our tribe;
- Next big projects:
 - Constitutional Reform
 - Updating/enhancing our self-governance programs
 - Hearth Act: establish our own land titles and records office
 - BIA isn't meeting our needs: 7-10 year wait for members who own their homes to receive their titles, but some have waited 20 years;
 - Residential leases – for tribal members who want to build their own homes on the reservations;
 - Members have received land assignments in Dresslerville, but can't build;
 - TSRs – title search records = required to build; tribal members have been on a 10-year wait;
 - Need is with establishing a process for this
- Inter-tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN)
 - Chairman Smokey was nominated and voted in as the President of ITCN (serving a two-year term);
 - Rueben Vasquez is the Vice-President (serving his second year of the term);
 - Chad Malone is the Secretary (serving his second year of the term);
 - They are helping to represent the issues of all Nevada tribes as ITCN

III. General Updates

- Planning – Off-Rez Priorities
- Off-Rez Programs
 - How do we better utilize our resources to build our off-reservation community?
- Environmental science projects
 - Projects are often assessing the health of our water and natural resources within our homelands, and several scientists are looking for input from the tribe = need more direction;
- Census 2020
 - Tribes are under-represented in Census counts, but this impacts a lot of the federal funding that is made available for tribal programs;
 - The tribe is forming a Census committee and will be putting out materials for information and to answer questions on how to best fill out the Census to benefit tribes;
 - Ex: really important to indicate your tribe, and your race as Native American
- 2020 Holiday Raffle
 - Requiring a survey to be sent back to be included in the raffle;

- Look for survey at the end of October (trying to get gift cards out by mid-December);

IV. Open Forum/Questions

- Tribal phone list – would appreciate an updated list with new employee names/contact extensions;

V. Next meeting:

- Tentative: Saturday January 11th, 2020 at 11am